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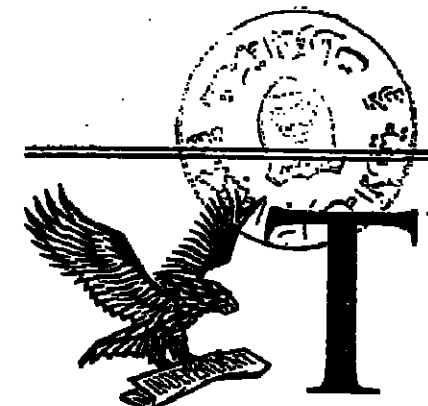
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THE AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER

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PLUS THE BEST OF THE WEEKEND'S ACTION

MARS ATTACK!
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Nato threatens 'nights of fire' as forces move to defend refugees

BY MARY BRAID AND KIM SENGUPTA

THE STAKES have been raised again in this, the most cut-throat of contests. As the Serbs yesterday continued their ferociously paced expulsion of the Kosovo Albanian population, Nato promised to unleash unrelenting bombing waves upon Yugoslavia.

The improving weather is on the side of the air campaign; the Serbian leadership and government infrastructure are now top of the Nato hit list. President Slobodan Milosevic's palace in Belgrade may even be targeted, said the German Defence Minister, Rudolph Scharping.

Last night more bombing missions took place against Belgrade, which Nato was initially reluctant to target. The aim is to disrupt President Milosevic's war machine by destroying fuel and transport links. Also hit were the headquarters of the internal security services, MUP, which have been responsible for some of the worst atrocities in Kosovo.

Nato's war aims are also toughening. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, declared yesterday that Nato troops will set up and protect refugee sanctuaries on the Macedonian side of the Kosovo border. Nato is also sending 6,000 troops to alleviate the misery of refugees in Albania.

This is widely seen as a precursor to the deployment of ground troops inside Kosovo itself, if only to protect the columns of refugees still hemorrhaging from the Serbs' war on the population.

The significant hardening of Nato policy was signalled by the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, who said that President Milosevic must withdraw all his forces from Kosovo in any future peace deal. The



Refugees at a camp at Nukes, Albania, run to greet the arrival of the first helicopters carrying supplies of humanitarian aid

Arja Niedringhaus

Rambouillet agreement only required partial withdrawal.

But despite Nato's threats and tough talking, tens of thousands of frightened refugees emerged from Kosovo yesterday, with Serb forces firing over their heads. This weekend, the Albanian Prime Minister,

Pandeli Majko, described the exodus as a "biblical deluge" and a "new Holocaust".

At last there are signs that Nato's humanitarian plan to rescue the refugees from hunger, disease and death is swinging into action. Until now, sheer pressure of numbers -

some 435,000 Albanians have fled or been forced out of Kosovo into Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro - and the international community's slow response to the crisis have simply meant the choking up of an entirely inadequate system. With the Macedonian border sealed

until guarantees of international aid are given, long columns of hungry, cold, exhausted and in some cases dying refugees have built up just inside Kosovo.

The Nato spokesman Jamie Shea said yesterday that 250,000 Albanians were waiting just inside Kosovo with no food

or shelter. The tens of thousands who have crossed the border still sit in squalor in the midst of muddy fields, while babies and old men and women die around them.

Albania is already caring for 100,000 refugees, on the condition that international assistance

is provided. The misery on the Macedonian border is also on the point of being tackled. Mr Cook said yesterday that Macedonia had agreed that an internationally run sanctuary for up to 100,000 refugees could be set up on its territory. A massive tented city is planned at

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Bradze airfield near the Kosovo border. "It's meant to be a safe passage out of the killing fields," a senior Foreign Office source said last night. "We need to get these people away from the death squads and prevent them from dying in the mud."

Other steps are being taken to release the pressure. Britain would appear to have been on the receiving end of some US persuasion. Yesterday it offered to take "some thousands" of refugees, only hours after Tony Blair warned such an initiative constituted "a policy of despair", in that it could undermine the central aim of returning the Albanian refugees to their homes.

Ms Albright said the European Union might fly as many as 100,000 refugees out of the region with "several thousand" going to the United States. But she recognised the Prime Minister's misgivings, insisting any removal must be temporary. "It's an ugly scene, how they're being pushed out of their country," said Ms Albright. "It's important for them not to be too far away from Kosovo so they can return."

With one of the big questions being how far America is prepared to go to force that return, she said the US was determined to press ahead with its air attack until Mr Milosevic "stopped the slaughter".

At last, aid arrives in the valley of death

IN THIS vast, filthy arena created by madness and fear, it was a very small death, witnessed by only those who happened to be passing.

Shortly after dawn, the old woman, as tiny and light as a child, had been passed through the sea of people, mud and garbage, hand to hand like a parcel of dirty clothing. She was over 90 years old and although she was dying of hypothermia and dehydration, she had certainly been murdered. Milosevic's thugs might as well have put a gun to her head instead of rousing her from her bed in Pristina, packing her on a train and making her sleep in a sodden field for three nights.

The young Greek doctor did her best. She tried to find blood pressure and she tried to find a pulse on her neck. But the end



BY JAMES DALRYMPLE IN BRACE

came within 30 minutes of her arrival at the pathetic little Red Cross casualty station. The doctor stood up, shook her head and walked away. Next case. About 50 people lay on the grass, some in coma, some shivering uncontrollably, some walling in shock.

The old woman was not the

first to die yesterday in the nightmarish valley of the Lepenec river, beneath the village of Brace on the Kosovo-Macedonian border. Nobody knows how many died in the night. One aid worker reported 10 infants and two adults, others put the figure lower. But in this ghastly mess, which nobody seems able to unblock, there will be many more deaths in the days and weeks ahead.

One potential catastrophe is already dithering - and another, even bigger, is descending from the hills in the north. The position is this. On the Macedonian side of the border there are perhaps 50,000 to 60,000 people essentially trapped by Macedonian troops who are anything but friendly. It is impossible to calculate the exact numbers, except to

say that from a high hill the densely packed crowd stretches for nearly two miles.

Yesterday, a blessed warning sun roused the massive military and aid-agency machinery from its eight-day torpor and some organised aid was finally produced. But better than that, somebody appeared to have a plan to release a human bottleneck that was only hours from becoming a disease-ridden graveyard.

A fleet of buses, perhaps a hundred in number, began to appear on the hillside and, yard by yard, the dense crowd started to move out of the morass.

Within 24 hours, thousands of troops, engineers and catering staff from the combined Nato force of 12,000 had set up half a dozen tented cities in the hills around the border; the

great unblocking operation was finally under way.

A senior British army officer, in charge of the British camp at Bojane, estimated it would take many days to clear the valley - but he said that if the weather stayed fine there was a chance of avoiding serious epidemics and loss of life. Meanwhile, he was doing what the paralysed lead organisation, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, had been dithering over for eight days. His men were cooking thousands of hot meals, producing 200,000 gallons of unpolluted water, erecting thousands of tents and getting the show on the road.

But even this cheerful man knew that a bigger horror was just over the hill. He knew that farther up the same valley -

back where the Serbs are still prodding and pushing and driving the dispossessed - another exodus is en route from Pristina, blocking the road for 10 miles. And from a high hill it is clear that he is right. A column of the damned is stretching and twisting up through the valley, moving slowly, hoping for rest and food.

But they won't get it. Macedonia is a nation in the grip of parallel nightmares - the threat of a Serbian invasion and the fear of internal instability - and it has now closed its border and demanded promises that the rest of the world will take its share of ethnic Albanians. So now, another, and perhaps greater tide of misery will spill into a huge no man's land in which nobody will be

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Lockerbie suspects 'to be handed over today'

THE HANDOVER of two Libyan suspects accused of the Lockerbie bombing is expected today, more than 10 years after Pan Am flight 103 exploded over Scotland.

Barring an 11th-hour change of heart by Libya, Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah will arrive in

BY KATHERINE BUTLER AND PAUL WAUGH

the Netherlands for trial by a Scottish court, eight years after arrest warrants were issued over the deaths of 270 people in December 1988, by a bomb in a radio cassette recorder. The men should present

themselves to UN officials at Tripoli before being flown to a special compound at Zeist in the Netherlands. Foreign Office sources said the surrender would meet the UN handover deadline of tomorrow.

Senior foreign officials arrived in Libya yesterday to witness the proceedings. The Arab

League Assistant Secretary-General, Ahmed bin Hilli, and Egypt's Administrative Development Minister, Mohamed Zaki Abu Amer, have already entered Libya.

Mr Al-Megrahi and Mr Fhimah will be met by Hans Corell, assistant general secretary of the UN's office of

legal affairs, and will be arrested and formally charged by Scottish police.

As part of a complex deal negotiated by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, Libya has agreed to Scottish jurisdiction in a third country on condition UN sanctions will be suspended when the men land. Norman

McFadyen, Scotland's Procurator Fiscal, and Jim Brisbane of the Crown Office in Edinburgh, flew to Amsterdam yesterday.

The trial will be conducted under Scottish law heard by three judges and no jury. If found guilty, the pair will serve their sentences in a Scottish jail.

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WAR IN THE BALKANS

THE INDEPENDENT
Monday 5 April 1999

'You have 15 minutes to get out...'

ESCAPE FROM PRISTINA

By GJERAQINA TUBINA in Skopje

The writer has been reporting for 'The Independent' anonymously from Pristina since the crisis began. She has not been identified before for fear of reprisals

FOR 10 days, I did not think it would happen. Even after the trains began. The line to Skopje hadn't run for ages, but after the neighbourhood of Dragodan was cleared, all of a sudden they started, and everyone was somehow instructed to head to the station.

We could see them from our window. There was shooting in other parts of town. But here, people were going on foot to the station - in silence, heads down, just walking. Thousands of them, for hours and hours, escorted by the police.

The first day we thought: "Amazing." The next day, we said: "Oh, here they are again." By the third day, we thought it was normal, and everyone just wanted to know what neighbourhoods the people came from so they could know when it would be their time.

But it didn't become real until they came to our house. I had become desperate to leave. I was frightened and wanted to live. But I still had some kind of hope, that maybe it would be temporary. I could never imagine myself and my parents, with our dignity and pride destroyed, just walking like that to the station, losing everything. It was a "normal", quiet day. By then we had three other families living with us, 15 people in our small flat, and it was lunchtime. They had come from Dragodan and we got to know each other spontaneously, like family.

My mother and the girls were preparing the table, meat and rice, which we still had. Then we heard a commotion on the floor below, and we knew. I wouldn't say they were polite, but they weren't abusive. There was no shouting, no pointing of sub-machine guns. Four young soldiers in the dark blue uniforms of the Ministry of the Interior (MUP) just knocked hard on the door and said: "You have to go. You have 15 minutes."

They waited patiently. Everyone quietly moved to pick up some things. The computer was on, so I went over and sent one last short e-mail to say I couldn't file a story that day: "Pray for me."

When we got to the street, everyone was heading left, to the station, and we headed right. We weren't ready yet. Like the people who had come to our house, we just walked over to a friend's home in another neighbourhood and said: "We're here."

When we arrived, my host and a friend were having a heated discussion. Our host was clear: "When they kick me out, I'm leaving." His friend did not want to give up his life and become a refugee. He said: "As long as I am not forced, I will not go to the train station." They talked for a long time, while we just stayed in the dark, without candles or anything to draw unwanted attention.

A day passed. It was a horrible feeling, just counting the time. We were disappointed because there weren't any Nato air strikes near the town. We discussed ideas for leaving, but nothing seemed safe enough. And I wouldn't take that train: three days in the field, losing all my documentation - never.

Only the day before, I had heard that the authorities had burnt all the civil documents, on births, marriages, deaths, etc, and the message was clear. We were to become non-persons. In those final days, I just gave up emotionally. It wasn't that I was afraid, it was the opposite: I was sure - sure I wouldn't see my friends anymore, sure that nothing would ever be the same.

At one point, I just had to go out. My brother came with me. We put hats on, kept our heads down and went quickly. By then the town, which once had 300,000 people, was half empty. You could feel the emptiness. Like you are the only person in



Ethnic Albanian refugees from Gjakova in Kosovo crossing the border into the northern Albanian village of Qafa e Prushit at the weekend. Albanian officials and international aid organisations have called for swift action to help the refugees

a room breathing. Pristina was dead.

A car stopped in front of us, a Serb, but someone I was friendly with. "Hey," he said, "you are still around? What the hell are you doing. Don't you know your life's in jeopardy?" I thanked him for the reminder. He said he had a way out. Two friends of his were heading to the Macedonian border. He promised it would be safe and they could get me through. They had already left, but if we went straightaway we could catch them. I didn't have time to think, but I wanted to believe that he wouldn't harm us. We jumped in.

Some distance down the street we caught the other car. There was a brief exchange and we got in. There were no introductions, and the driver and his friend didn't seem interested. They were Yugoslav customs officers.

As we drove towards the border at Tetovo, I got a proper view of the city for the first time in 10 days. There were too many tanks, too many police. Everywhere. There were armoured vehicles in front of all the government buildings. Except for the shops, the centre itself was not too damaged. Even the traffic lights were working, though no one stopped at them. But as we passed through other neighbourhoods, especially residen-

tial areas, it was all burnt. It was strange: I'd lived in Pristina for 23 years but felt like I no longer knew the town.

The route, not two hours long, was quiet. I had reported all the fighting, and many of the villages along the way had already been burnt. There wasn't that much more destruction than I'd already seen.

There were a few checkpoints, and some vehicles being stopped by armed civilians, but the roads were basically empty and we sailed through. The officers chatted with each other, complaining about the shortage of cigarettes in Pristina and the long day ahead of them. They saw I was in no mood to speak.

The border was announced by the line of refugees 10 kilometres long. People in cars, tractors, wagons, and several thousand on foot, lined up to get out of Yugoslavia. There were old people and babies, and it was very cold.

My "driver" took me to the head of the line, and let me out right over the border. I asked if they wanted to see my documentation, and they said no: "Just have a good trip, and good luck." Could it be that they didn't realise I was Albanian? Whatever, I was out of Kosovo, out of Yugoslavia, and out of danger. I felt reborn.

Not everyone was so lucky. In no-man's land, there were several thousand people who

had been waiting for days. I saw an old woman who had died. A few men carried her body out into a field, and buried her there. It's a sad place for your parent's grave. There were many children crying, and stampedes whenever milk or bread, usually from an Albanian from Macedonia, arrived.

I had a mobile phone, and after letting my family know I was OK, I became the centre of a mini-stampede as everyone wanted to borrow it. So while we waited, I spoke to many people. They had no idea where they were going or what they would do. "If we get lucky, someone will give us a room," they said. But they had no aim or motive. There were only a few in-

ternational agencies. The Macedonian authorities were in no rush to process people, and after eight hours the cars there had not moved at all. Every hour or so, they just singled someone out and said, "Hey, you. You can pass now." And you were through.

By nightfall, it began to rain and get really cold. I was very lucky. I have family in Macedonia, and a relative found a way to come and pick me up. But on the other side, a few hundred Albanians, people from western Macedonia, from Tetovo and Gostivar, were standing in the snow and the rain, waiting to pick up strangers with no place to go and take them into their homes. The thing that we

had feared for so long had happened. As we drove away, I was leaving Yugoslavia and the MUP, the fear. But I was also leaving Kosovo, and will have to start my life over again. Still, I think the people will go back. I saw people even now who want to return. They have this bizarre feeling that they just left, and their homeland is empty. That whether they like it or not, Kosovo, for now, belongs to the Serbs.

The writer is a correspondent for the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), an EU-funded charity. This dispatch may also be read at www.iwpr.net and at www.independent.co.uk

Killings film to be used in trials

VIDEO EVIDENCE

By Mary Ebrah

THE DEVASTATING two-minute videotape providing documentary evidence of specific Serb atrocities and executions of Albanian refugees is to be used in future war crimes trials of the Serb leadership.

The tape, brought out of the country by Milaim Bellanica, a survivor of an alleged massacre on 26 March, in the village of Velika Krusa, near Prizren, shows the bodies of 15 men, lying amid burnt-out houses, some shot in the back of the head, others charred beyond recognition. The only sound to break the otherwise silent soundtrack is the eerie twittering of birds. Mr Bellanica, who specialised in filming weddings before the exodus from Kosovo began, has named 26 victims he knew personally. Most he claims were farmers who had nothing to do with the Kosovo Liberation Army.

Yesterday, as the tape played all day on television, the Nato spokesman Jamie Shea cautioned that its veracity still had to be checked. But if the film turns out to be authentic, the two minutes of footage will be remembered for many years to come. It is also being lodged with the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague.

Yesterday Mr Bellanica was telling journalists how he hid in the basement of his house for seven days after his friends perished in the murder and mayhem reigned above.

The Serb police, he said, looted and burnt houses, including his own. He claims three elderly neighbours - all brothers - were burnt to death. The video was made after police left, and smuggled out in the chassis of a tractor.

Mr Bellanica risked his life to take the film into Albania. "I have done this so that my son, my grandson, and the next generation will never forget what the Serbs have done to the Albanian people."

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Meanwhile, back in the city, looters in uniform take over

FROM PAGE 1

able to feed and shelter them. The sights and sounds of this hellish place are almost beyond description. The miasma of disease, through human waste and polluted water, hangs heavy in the air. Yesterday's sudden burst of heat brought out swarms of flies, and the blankets that cover the thousands of babies and infants were already crawling with lice.

It seems that every third young woman has a child in her arms. It seems that one face in ten belongs to a person of impossible old age. How they have survived this far is beyond belief. Many lie motionless, tiny wizened faces encased in shawls; others wander around looking dazed. The magnificent old men who once fought the Nazis and would never weep, crouch down on their haunches in the style of coal miners and workmen the world over, waiting for whatever calamity comes next. But now, and again you see their faces collapse, and they too begin to weep.

There is a strange perception that these now dirty and ragged Kosovo Albanians are all poor peasants. It is not so. They are just like us; all manner of people. I saw several women in expensive tailored suits, carrying leather suitcases.



An Albanian refugee from Kosovo staring out from the tent camp at Raduca in Macedonia

John Voss

There were businessmen and professional types with glittering watches on their wrists - and the faces of ghosts. One family had owned an eight-roomed villa in Pristina, two businesses, and a top-of-the-range Mercedes. The Mercedes was now the property of a paramilitary commander believed to be linked to the Serbian warlord known as Arkan. It was one of thousands you can see parked just over the border, a showroom for freebies for the looters who call themselves the army.

The rich family's business premises are now a gutted ruin, although they believe their house has been commandeered as a Serb officer's headquarters. Status, money and property have been con-

signed to a past life; the businessman and his stylish wife are now just part of the multitude of new invisibles, heading for months in tented camps, perhaps never to go back.

I met a young Albanian television actor, Artan Geca, who was on the verge of a film career. "It all ended with the door being smashed in," he said. "There stood the Arkanas, with their faces masked and carrying the long machete knives they like so much. That was the end of my life and my career. I have nothing now."

I asked him about the Nato bombing campaign, but he never saw or heard any before he was forced to flee on Thursday. "There were no planes, no bombs," he said. "The Serbs cleared out every street in

Pristina, one by one, over three days. They stole everything we had. We just ran for our lives."

I went up once again for a final look at this terrible valley. By late afternoon, the buses were running, one every few minutes, and those people at the bottleneck head of the mass of refugees gasped and struggled up through the mud. They seemed to relax a little. A few even smiled.

But there was one more insult to bear. An hour later, on a bleak hillside beneath snow-capped mountains at a place called Reduca, they had a taste of what comes next. They were grateful for the tents and the hot food, but they are now within a sealed compound of wire fences, surrounded once again by men with guns. The Macedonians may not want to kill them, but they are determined they will not be allowed to wander at will.

One young woman, clinging to the fence with her child, had no relatives in Macedonia. That meant just one thing. She was facing weeks, perhaps months, inside what is a prison camp in everything but name. Such places often become permanent.

"I don't like this place," she said. "But I am grateful to be alive. And tonight I will have a place to sleep and food. Perhaps that is enough."

JAMES DALRYMPLE

WAR IN THE BALKANS

'The skyline was rimmed with black smoke'

IT SOUNDED as if someone in the sky were tearing apart a silk curtain. The rumble of bombs, changing the air pressure in my bedroom, sent my own net curtains billowing and banged the window against my head when I tried to push it open.

The raid must have lasted three or four minutes. The jets passed right over the crumbling, flaking tenements outside my room. And there, silhouetted over the rooftops, against the pre-dawn sky, was a great

orange glow, flickering upwards and then resolving itself into a false, northern sunrise. When I looked at my watch this Easter Day morning in Belgrade, it read 4.30.

With the first paleness of the real dawn, I could make out a colossal, towering funnel of smoke – maybe a mile high – above Novi Beograd, the ugly suburb north of the Sava river, with its dingy skyscrapers and broad, weedy boulevards. By the time I drove across the

Gazela Bridge, the whole skyline of Belgrade was rimmed with black smoke. The two red-and-white banded chimneys of the electrical power station still stood, but the plant was burning.

Across Belgrade, you could smell the fires, even inside the magnificent domed cathedral below Kalemegdan Park, where the Orthodox were celebrating Palm Sunday.

On Saturday morning, it had been the much-loved Yu-

goslav and Serbian interior ministries that were ablaze. Tongues of flame swept up from the eight-storey buildings on Kneza Milosa after eight cruise missiles – seven launched by the Americans, one by the Royal Navy – had been fired at them from the Adriatic 300 miles to the west.

AIR STRIKES

BY ROBERT FISK in Belgrade

pared the attack to Hitler's bombing of Belgrade on 6 April, 1941. Indeed, anniversaries seem to dominate the life of Belgrade just now. Hitler bombed 58 years ago. Nato was founded 50 years ago. Last week marked the 10th anniversary of the Serbian constitution that annulled Kosovo's autonomy. And that wasn't all of Nato's

handiwork over the weekend. Twice it struck the river bridges over the Danube at Novi Sad, cutting off much of the water supply to the city and all of Yugoslavia's telephone lines to Western Europe, as well as navigation between Hungary and the Black Sea.

Three men were wounded in the Novi Sad bombings and five workers hurt at the power station yesterday morning. A major military route that carried vital logistic supplies

and troops for the Serbs was how Nato justified the destruction of the first Novi Sad bridge – a description that might just as well be used about any road in Serbia. There was no doubt about the paramilitary target south of Belgrade – a police academy – although the oil refinery bombed yesterday morning at Kraljevo and the Belgrade power station hardly fell into that category.

The people of Belgrade have

long feared that Nato would spread its targets Iraq-style – from barracks and anti-aircraft defences to bridges, roads and railways – once its air offensive failed to break Serbia.

Now it seems their fears are being realised. They had hoped that the Pope's proposal to honour another anniversary, almost 2,000 years ago, by calling an 11-day ceasefire might have brought a suspension of the bombardment. The Easter appeal was rejected.

Full air power to hit Serb targets

MILITARY STRATEGY

BY KIM SENGUPTA

ON NATO'S 50th birthday, with its strategy in Kosovo flourishing, senior ranks are fervently hoping the imminent improvement in the weather will at last allow the launch of the full extent of its ferocious air power on Serbia.

Commanders, frustrated and angered by a stymied bombing campaign and the seeming inability to dent significantly the Serbian war machine or stop the waves of ethnic cleansing, say the real war is just beginning. Slobodan Milosevic and his regime will now experience "nights of fire".

The Allies are poised to launch wave after wave of bombers and missiles with a heavy concentration on Belgrade, the capital, which they had sought to avoid in the first week of the war.

High priority will be given to the Serbian leadership and the infrastructure supporting it. President Milosevic's own palace in Belgrade could become a target.

The German defence minister, Rudolf Scharping, warned: "He shouldn't have the feeling that he can murder people at will in Kosovo and remain unmolested himself."

The bombers have hit the internal Security Institute and the headquarters of the 1st Army, whose senior echelons are said to be Milosevic loyalists. Petroleum depots and air defence systems. An attack on a bridge, say the Yugoslav authorities, caused civilian casualties.

Yesterday the first signs of what many analysts see as the inevitable next stage – the use of ground troops, were beginning to emerge.

Getting Slobodan Milosevic to disgorge Kosovo would be a long campaign of attrition needing troop strengths of between 100,000 and 200,000, attack helicopters and heavy armour not at present at the scene.

Such an expedition takes at least six to eight weeks to prepare and would have to be preceded with intense daily air strikes. As Nato military officers repeatedly point out at briefings, in the Gulf the land war was preceded by weeks of fe-

ocious bombings and missile attacks to soften the enemy.

But the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, has said Nato troops will establish sanctuaries in Macedonia on the Kosovo border for refugees. Camps were being constructed and £10m will be committed to the project.

The Nato secretary-general, Javier Solana, has said action by ground troops may become necessary, and commanders accept that a corridor may have to be established through Kosovo and a safe haven set up on that side of the border as well for the policy to succeed.

The Nato arsenal is building. The Pentagon announced Apache ground attack helicopters were being sent in. They join 13 additional F-117A "Stealth" fighter bombers and the aircraft carrier *Theodore Roosevelt*, with 50 attack jets.

The safe haven option would be a compromise between depending on air power alone, a policy increasingly seen as discredited, and full-scale intervention, which could cost huge casualties.

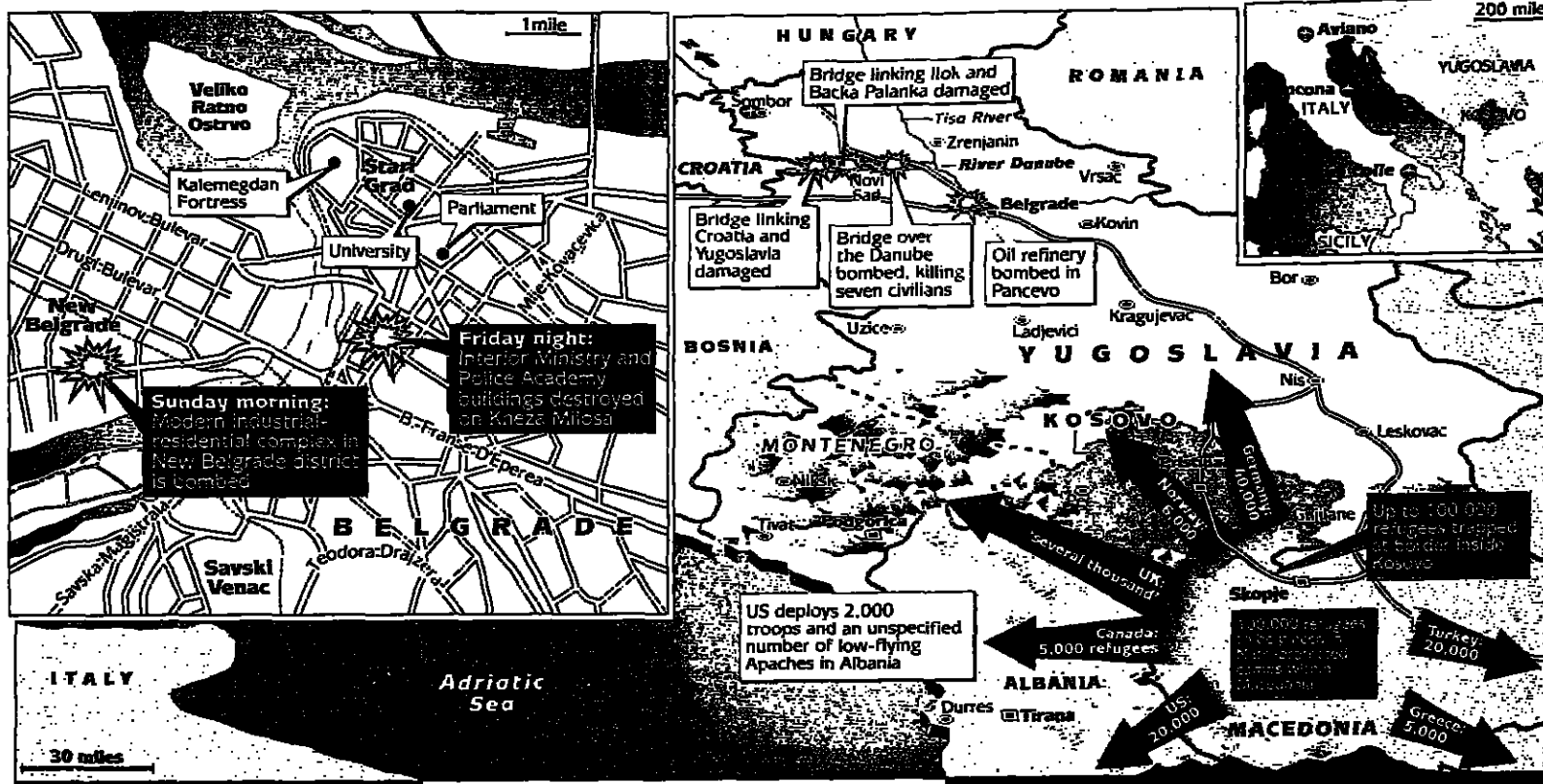
But even this limited operation is full of pitfalls. There would be inevitable hostilities, with the hilly, rugged terrain favouring hit-and-run tactics by the Serbs, and with it the sight of body bags going home.

Macedonia's minority Serb government last week announced it would not permit a helicopter attack force in its territory targeting their kith and kin across the border.

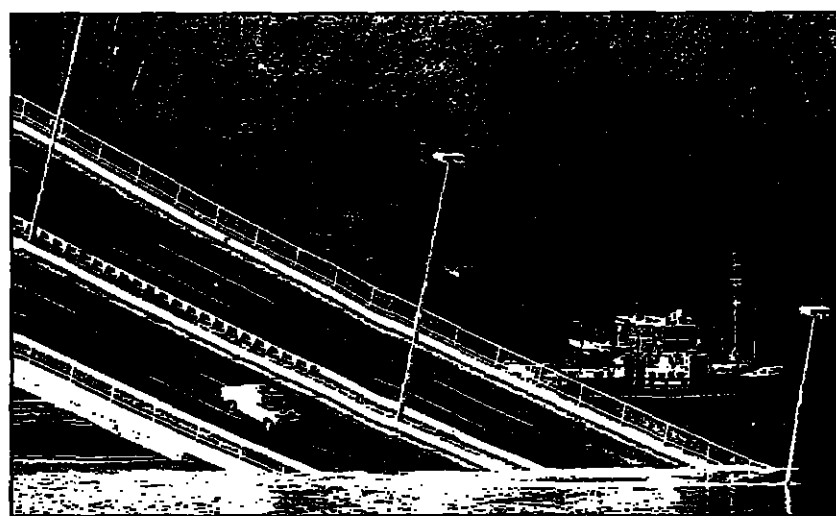
If these problems are reconciled, the campaign, according to military analysts, will still take up to three weeks of high-intensity action. The best route into Kosovo would be from Skopje in Macedonia through mountain passes into rolling hills and valleys where Nato armour will have a signal advantage over the Serbs.

But there are five key bridges and if they are destroyed, Nato tanks will face massive difficulties. There are the additional problems of mines laid by retreating Serbs.

The first phase would be heavy tactical air bombardment to take out Serb artillery and anti-aircraft defences. This



Smoke billowing from a crude oil reservoir at a central heating plant in New Belgrade after it was hit by Nato air strikes yesterday Sasa Stankovic



A boat passes the downed main 'Freedom' bridge over the Danube, in the town of Novi Sad, capital of northern Vojvodina province AP



Serbs in the city of Novi Sad inspecting the remains of a Danube river bridge destroyed in a Nato bombing raid Reuters

would secure flight lanes and ground routes. The strikes could come from carriers or Nato bases in Italy and Germany.

The initial probes on the ground would be from special forces, including the SAS, sections of which have already carried out clandestine missions behind the lines to flush out Serb command units that may have taken up potential ambush positions on the high

ground. The special forces will be able to call upon the Apache helicopters from the Air Cavalry and A-10 Thunderbolt aircraft on targets. Search and rescue units would be on standby to aid the special forces if needed.

The offensive proper would start with another wave of bombardment followed by paratroopers and special forces sent further into Kosovo to capture strategic positions, in-

cluding bridges and the airport outside Pristina.

They would undoubtedly come under fierce fire from Serbs and must hold their ground to allow the main part of the force to fly into the airport on C-130 Hercules trans-

porters with light tanks, armoured cars and light artillery. Scimitar and Sabre light tanks could also be flown into protected areas.

Simultaneously, armoured

columns would thrust from Macedonia with Challenger 2 tanks, Scimitars and troop-loaded Warrior armoured personnel carriers under a protective air umbrella.

In the final phase, refugees would be rescued and passed along the corridor to the safe haven on either side of the border.

This would be a vulnerable period with risk of high civilian fatalities if a Serb attack breaks

through, unless a masking movement further northwards forces the Yugoslav army to go on the defensive over routes into Belgrade.

After all this had been achieved a strong Nato presence will have to be retained to defend the safe haven from Serbs who will regroup and seek to strike back.

This in itself may lead to a land war by a process of intensifying engagements.

TIMETABLE

Saturday 3 April
5pm BST: The BBC says it has received video pictures which appear to confirm accounts of Serb atrocities in Kosovo.
5.30pm: Britain says the international community should set up a sanctuary in Macedonia for refugees.
5.30pm: Macedonia announces it won't accept any more refugees unless they can go on to other European countries.
6pm: Nato destroys a second bridge over the Danube, linking Novi Sad with Sremska Kamenica.
6pm: Nato says a force could go into Kosovo to return refugees ahead of Milosevic signing any peace agreement.
6.51pm: Italy and France back Russia's proposal for a conference of the world's powers on Kosovo.
7.30pm: After Nato's first missile strike on central Belgrade, the Clinton administration declares that "no target is off-limits".
8pm: Pentagon says Nato has no plan to use ground forces.

Sunday 4 April
4.30am: Nato strikes another three locations in Belgrade, and several targets in central Serbia.
8.31am: Nato says more than one million Kosovo Albanians have been uprooted from their homes and are trapped inside the province.
8.50am: Russian reconnaissance ship Liman, sails through Turkey's strategic Dardanelles strait.
9.50am: Pope John Paul opens Easter Sunday mass with a call to pray for the "martyred region of the Balkans".
11.30am: Foreign Secretary Robin Cook says that Macedonia has agreed to the setting up on its territory of an internationally run sanctuary for 100,000 refugees.
12.50pm: Western nations renew their warning to Milosevic not to try to destabilise the pro-Western government in the Yugoslav republic of Montenegro.

1pm: Nato pledges to step up its missile strikes on Yugoslavia to cripple Belgrade's military.

2.30pm: Nato says it has reports that Ibrahim Rugova, the moderate ethnic Albanian leader, is being held by Serb forces in his house in Pristina.

4.45pm: US says it is deploying helicopter gunships to the conflict.

6pm: Britain says it is ready to provide temporary accommodation for some of the refugees.

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Pope asks Milosevic to allow aid corridor

EASTER MESSAGE

BY STEVE BOGGAN

POPE JOHN Paul II called on the Yugoslav government to open a humanitarian corridor yesterday to help to save the thousands of refugees from the "martyred land of Kosovo".

He used his Easter Day Mass to appeal to both sides to lay down their weapons and restart negotiations, imploring: "Enough of this cruel shedding of human blood."

Before 30,000 worshippers at St Peter's Square in Rome, the Pontiff said: "On this holy day I feel duty-bound to make a heartfelt appeal to the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, to allow a humanitarian corridor to be opened in order for help to be brought to the mass of people gathered at the border of Kosovo."

"There can be no frontiers to impede the work of solidarity;

corridors of hope are always an imperative."

Earlier, Pope John Paul had said: "How can we speak of peace when people are forced to flee, when they are hunted down and their homes are burnt to the ground? When their heavens are rent by the din of war, when the whistle of shells is heard around people's homes and the ravaging fire of bombs consumes towns and villages?"

"When will there be an end to the diabolic spiral of revenge and senseless fratricidal conflicts? From the Risen Lord I invoke the precious gift of peace above all for the devastated land of Kosovo, where

tears and blood continue to mingle in a tragic spectacle of hatred and violence."

Last Thursday, the Pope sent his foreign minister, Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, to Belgrade to attempt to negotiate a peaceful settlement. The Pope's strategy – to no avail – was to urge all sides in the conflict to observe a truce from the Western Christian Easter on 4 April until the Eastern Orthodox Easter on 11 April.

During yesterday's Mass, Pope John Paul said his thoughts were also with people in troubled spots in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

In his Easter sermon, Dr George Carey, the Archbishop



Pope John Paul II giving his message of peace

of Canterbury, said the "evil of ethnic cleansing" was leading to the "crucifixion" of Kosovo.

Backing the Nato action against the Serbs, he added: "Military action thus far is recognition that the civilised world cannot stand idly by and accept that evil should triumph." He said he hoped the same effort that has gone into the Nato assaults would be exercised in helping the victims of the conflict to rebuild their lives.

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DEPENDENT
Friday 5 April 1996

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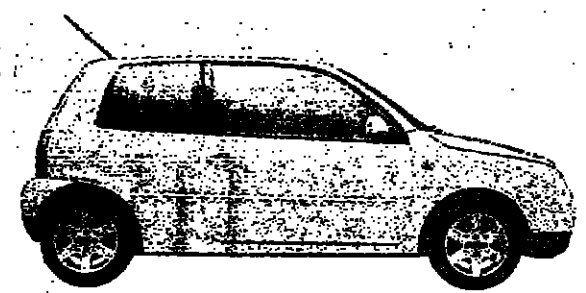
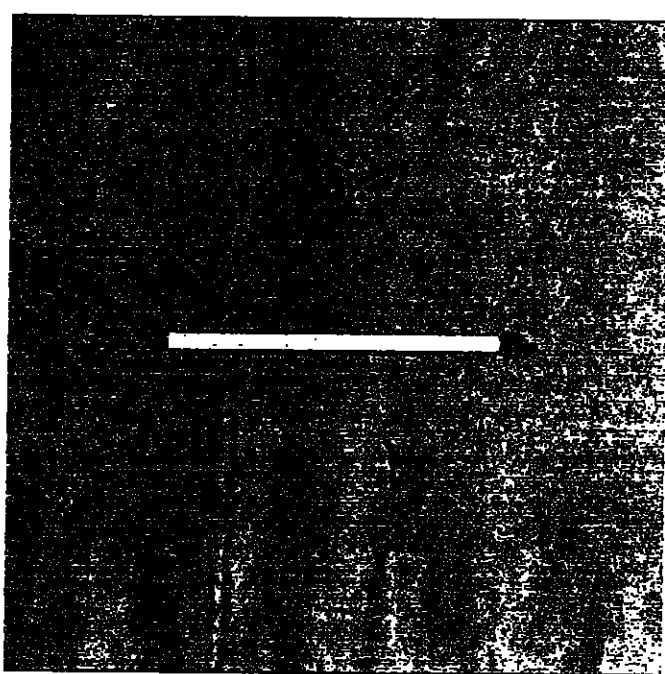
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Mafias move into smuggling scams

THE ITALIAN and Russian mafias and at least one notorious London crime family are conspiring to smuggle tobacco and alcohol into Britain, police intelligence officers say.

The criminals are bringing in cut-price cigarettes, spirits, hand-rolling tobacco and beer from Europe worth millions of pounds and selling them on the black market. Others are operating bogus export companies in the UK.

Two men were arrested on Saturday after police discovered an "Aladdin's cave" of duty-free alcohol and tobacco as well as pornography at a house in Stoke. The haul included 150,000 cigarettes, 44.5 kilograms of tobacco, 14,600 cigars, and 242 litres of spirits.

Ministers concerned about the Exchequer's estimated lost revenue of £1.7bn last year are appointing Britain's first anti-smuggling "czar" to review strategy.

In another recent case police say there are links to organised crime in the seizure of a lorry from Italy with four million cigarettes. Further details of the smuggling operation, believed to have cost the gangs £200,000 to set up, and Italian organised criminals, cannot be released because the case is on-going.

Police and customs operations say former Soviet crime groups are involved. Contraband has been found in secret compartments in specially designed shipments of wood, par-

By JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

ticularly from Latvia. Detective Inspector Allan Atherfold, head of the police intelligence unit, based at Dover, said: "At the extreme end of the smuggling are organised crime groups from the new Eastern European bloc states and the Italian Mafia. Criminals from various geographical locations have got together to smuggle alcohol and tobacco."

"We have good intelligence and details of where the goods originated to show the involvement of Italian organised crime. The same is true of the Eastern bloc - Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus."

Other sources say the Adams crime gang, based in north London, are helping to set up bogus import and export companies to smuggle in alcohol, almost exclusively spirits. The family, known for extreme violence, run clubs and pubs and are involved in drug dealing and counterfeiting.

The smuggling scam works by buying vast amounts of tax-free alcohol from European or British companies and storing them in warehouses in the UK. Export notices and stamps are forged to claim the drink is exported abroad, avoiding duty. But the shipments never leave the country and the spirits are distributed through clubs, pubs and off-licences.

Criminals in Kent, where

most of the smuggled goods arrive, have prospered. Petty crooks have graduated from car theft and burglary to large houses, expensive 4x4 off-road vehicles, Rolex watches, foreign villas and legitimate businesses. Vehicles costing £25,000 are often bought for cash.

Four or five families are running the smaller shipments in the Kent region, creaming off £25,000 a week. The intelligence unit, Kent police's intelligence arm of Operation Hemlock, a multi-agency anti-smuggling initiative, has more than 6,000 suspected smugglers on its crime database, with 3,000 from Kent alone.

Det Insp Atherfold said: "We are not winning the war - it is a thriving business. Whatever we can confiscate is just seen as an inconvenience or a business overhead to the criminal involved."

High profits and very low risk make the trade extremely attractive and in some cases has replaced drug smuggling.

The penalties for being caught smuggling alcohol and tobacco are a maximum sentence of nine years, compared with life for bringing in drugs.

Officials fear that, in the next two or three years, up to one in five cigarettes here will be smuggled.

Customs and Excise believes £1.5bn is lost through excise duty and VAT on tobacco and £200m from alcohol.



The 'Aladdin's cave' of smuggled cigarettes, tobacco, alcohol and pornography uncovered in Stoke by police after a tip-off

A high-speed way to make illicit riches

By JASON BENNETTO

THE FERRY from Calais has just arrived at Dover hoverport. It is 5.30pm. Outside in the car park are huddles of tough-looking men, sporting tracksuits and beer guts.

Minutes after the hovercraft has docked 20 to 30 people pour out of the front doors clutching carrier bags filled with bottles of spirits and packs of 200 cigarettes. They are a strange mix of the young, old, middle-aged, men and women. They immediately approach the waiting men, who openly pull out large bundles of cash and peel off a couple of notes in exchange for the bags.

This is the bottom rung of a multi-million-pound smuggling racket responsible for flooding Britain with cut-price alcohol and tobacco. But as the illegal trade and the profits grow so does the interest from organised crime. There are two basic types of smuggling. Much of the smaller scale bootlegging is known as "white van traffic", named after the Transits frequently used to bring the goods across the Channel.

Smugglers bringing in beer usually concentrate on well-known brands of high-strength lager. Tobacco runners favour quicker means, particularly the Channel tunnel and hovercraft.

Much of the tobacco comes from the town of Adinkerke in Belgium on the French border about 30 minutes from Calais. The low duty rates mean hand-rolling tobacco costs £40 a kilogram compared with £160 in a British shop. Cigarettes are usually bought from Luxembourg where they cost £15 for 200 compared with £36 in the UK. A smuggler can pack 35,000 cigarettes into their car without it looking overloaded.

The runners doing the donkey work earn as little as £10 a trip or £40 if they are drivers.

But they can usually make three trips a day, sometimes sharing a room to "hot bunk" - taking turns to sleep. Up to 15 people have been found sharing a double room.

The next rung up are the local organisers who recruit the runners and supply their cross-Channel fares as well as taking the goods in secret to warehouses. They usually have a minder who looks after cash and punishes anyone who loses their loads or dips into it.

Above them are the bosses who look after distribution. Kent police say there are more than 1,000 active bootleggers from the North East, particularly Sunderland, Middlesbrough and Newcastle. A similar number are from the North West and West Midlands, with more in London area and 3,000 in Kent. The big-league criminals concentrate on bringing in vast loads - four to seven million cigarettes - in the back of lorries. These can be bought in bulk loads for as little as £1 for 100 through bogus export companies in Eastern Europe.

The other scam to attract organised crime is the "diversion fraud", where fake companies are set up in the UK. Asian criminals have become particularly adept at this, say police and customs.

In a recent case four men were successfully prosecuted for using fake export documents to save an estimated £7.2m in duty from alcohol.

The men, from London, were sentenced to terms ranging from two and a half years to four years at Kingston Crown Court last month.

One of the smugglers even had his own chain of off-licences where he sold the duty-free drink.

IN BRIEF

Two dead in Scottish mountains

A CLIMBER was killed and another victim was found in the Scottish mountains over the weekend. Malcolm Hardcastle, 40, from Wirral, was found after a fall on Ben Nevis. The other body, found in Aberdeenshire, is thought to be that of Gordon Fortune, missing since January.

Land Rovers to join lorry protest

FARMERS WILL join protesting lorry drivers in London to demonstrate against agricultural policies and increases in fuel prices and road taxes. About 1,500 farmers say they will drive their Land Rovers in a 2,000-lorry convoy through the capital next Monday.

Pensioner beaten by burglars

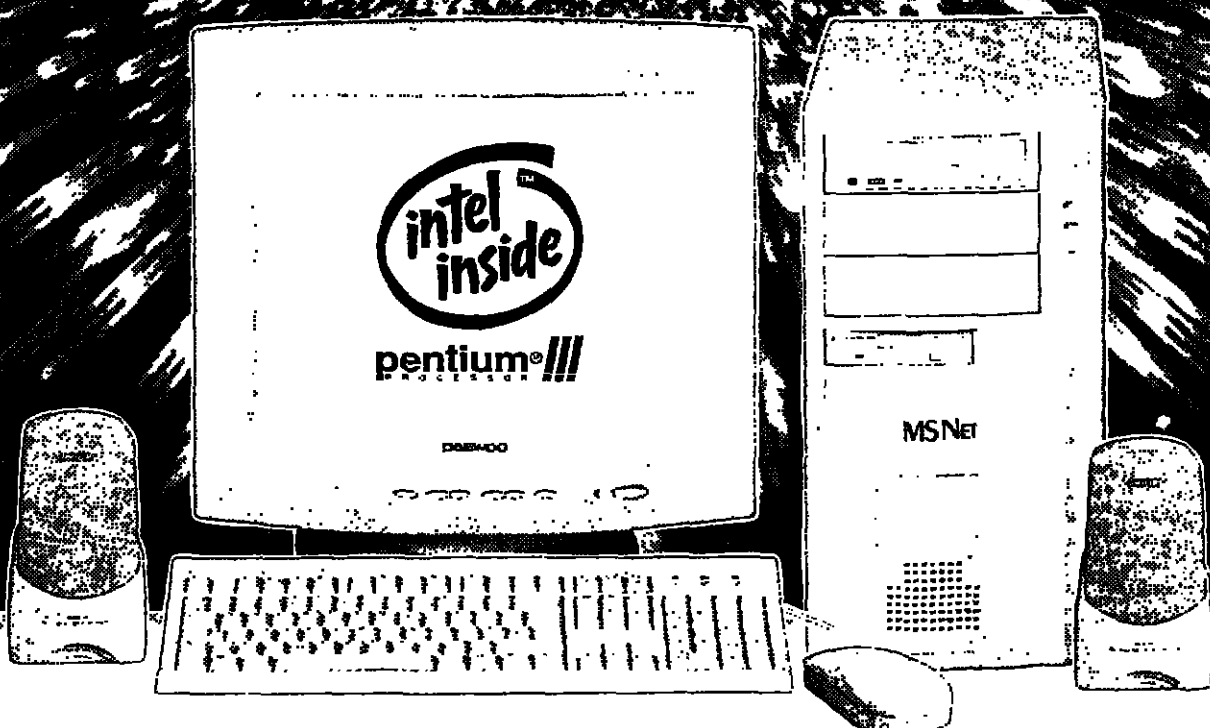
A 67-YEAR-OLD man was tied up and beaten in his home by two burglars who stole his wallet. Benjamin Cauldwell, from Heanor, Derbyshire suffered cuts and bruises in the attack on Saturday night. Police are seeking information about a silver Austin Montego seen in the area.

Lottery winner scoops £6.7m

ONE LUCKY ticket-holder scooped Saturday's £6.7 million National Lottery jackpot, Camelot said. The winner collected £6,775,713 for matching all six numbers - 9, 7, 43, 3, 40 and 15. The bonus number was 11.

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Corals hit by fossil fuels

By CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

THE WORLD'S coral reefs, already damaged by record sea temperatures, are threatened by rising carbon dioxide levels, an international team of scientists has determined.

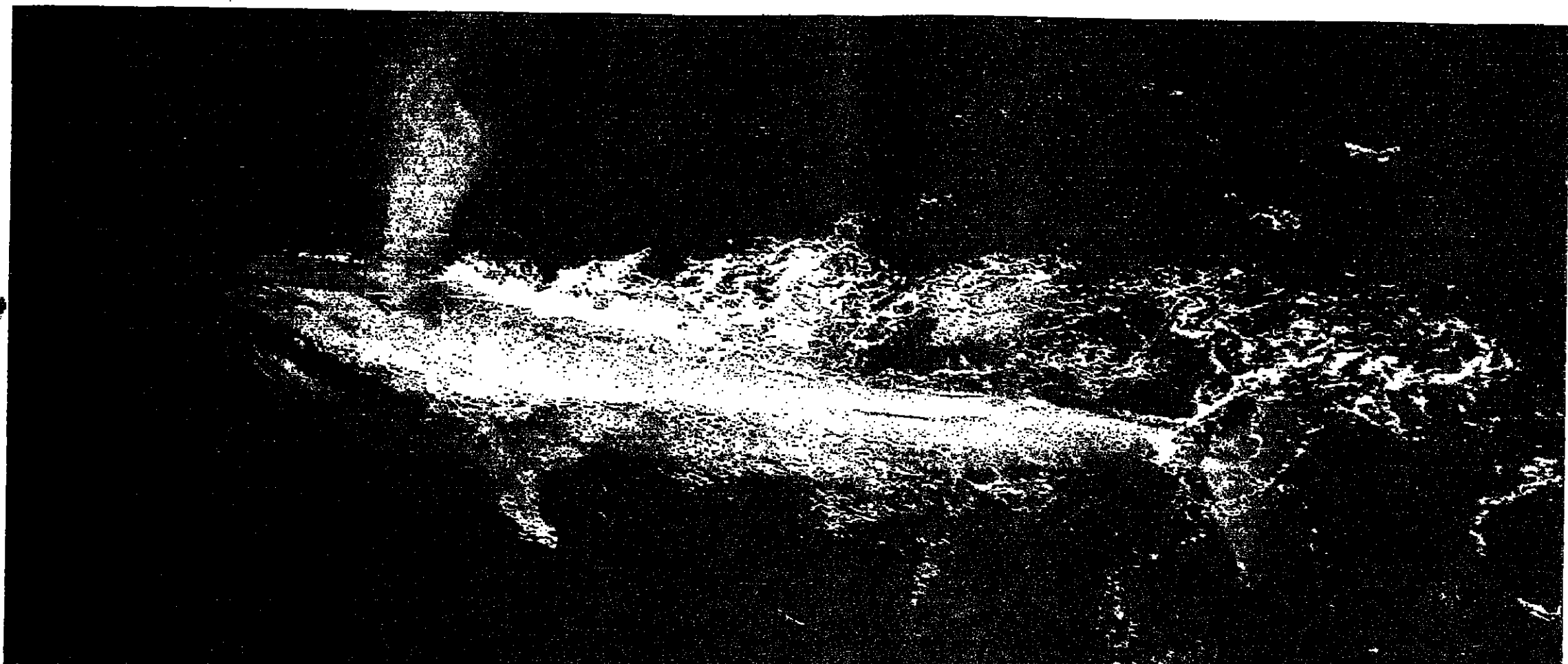
By calculating calcium carbonate levels back to the Industrial Revolution, their study has shown that the burning of fossil fuels is raising levels of carbon dioxide, causing a reaction that erodes the reefs.

Calcium carbonate is the foundation of coral reefs, produced by tiny reef-dwelling creatures called coral polyps. Now, rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are causing the sea to become more acidic as the gas is absorbed by the water.

This tends to dissolve calcium carbonate, making reef formation more difficult. In the next century, levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are expected to reach double the level that they were before the Industrial Revolution, when human beings first began to burn fossil fuels on a big scale. The result may be that live reefs become increasingly fragile, and may stop growing.

Coral reefs support what is thought to be the world's richest ecosystem, as well as a \$200bn (£200bn) fishing and tourism industry. Global warming has already killed most of the corals in the Indian Ocean, and in areas of the western and eastern Pacific.

We calculate that the precipitation of calcium carbonate has already decreased 6 to 11 per cent since the Industrial Revolution, and would decrease another 3 to 17 per cent if carbon dioxide levels double their pre-industrial values," said Professor Meehan of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, who led the research team.



The abolition of the Southern Ocean whaling sanctuary

Great whale Japan move

JAPAN IS seeking to abolish the Southern Ocean whaling sanctuary agreed only five years ago, in a move that is fiercely opposed by anti-whaling nations, including Britain.

At next month's International Whaling Commission meeting in Grenada in the West Indies, the Japanese will formally propose scrapping the sanctuary, eight million square miles of ocean around Antarctica that is home to some 90 per cent of the world's remaining biggest whales. Britain will "vehemently" oppose the move, the Fisheries minister, Elliot Morley, said yesterday.

The Japanese have disregarded the sanctuary since it was established in 1994, con-

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

tinuing to hunt whales as a means for whaling purposes, as they have done since the war, when a moratorium on commercial whaling came into force.

Their attempt to end the sanctuary is part of the Japanese whaling industry's efforts to have their moratorium lifted. To the surprise of anti-whaling campaigners worldwide, this has been a look as if it might succeed.

To abolish the sanctuary, the Japanese will need a two-thirds majority of the 32 countries voting at the 1999

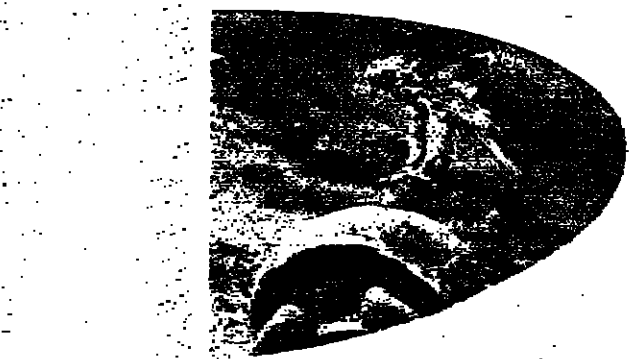
meeting. The Japanese have already secured the support of 10 countries, including the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

The Japanese whaling industry has been a major force in the country's economy, and the government has been reluctant to support the sanctuary.

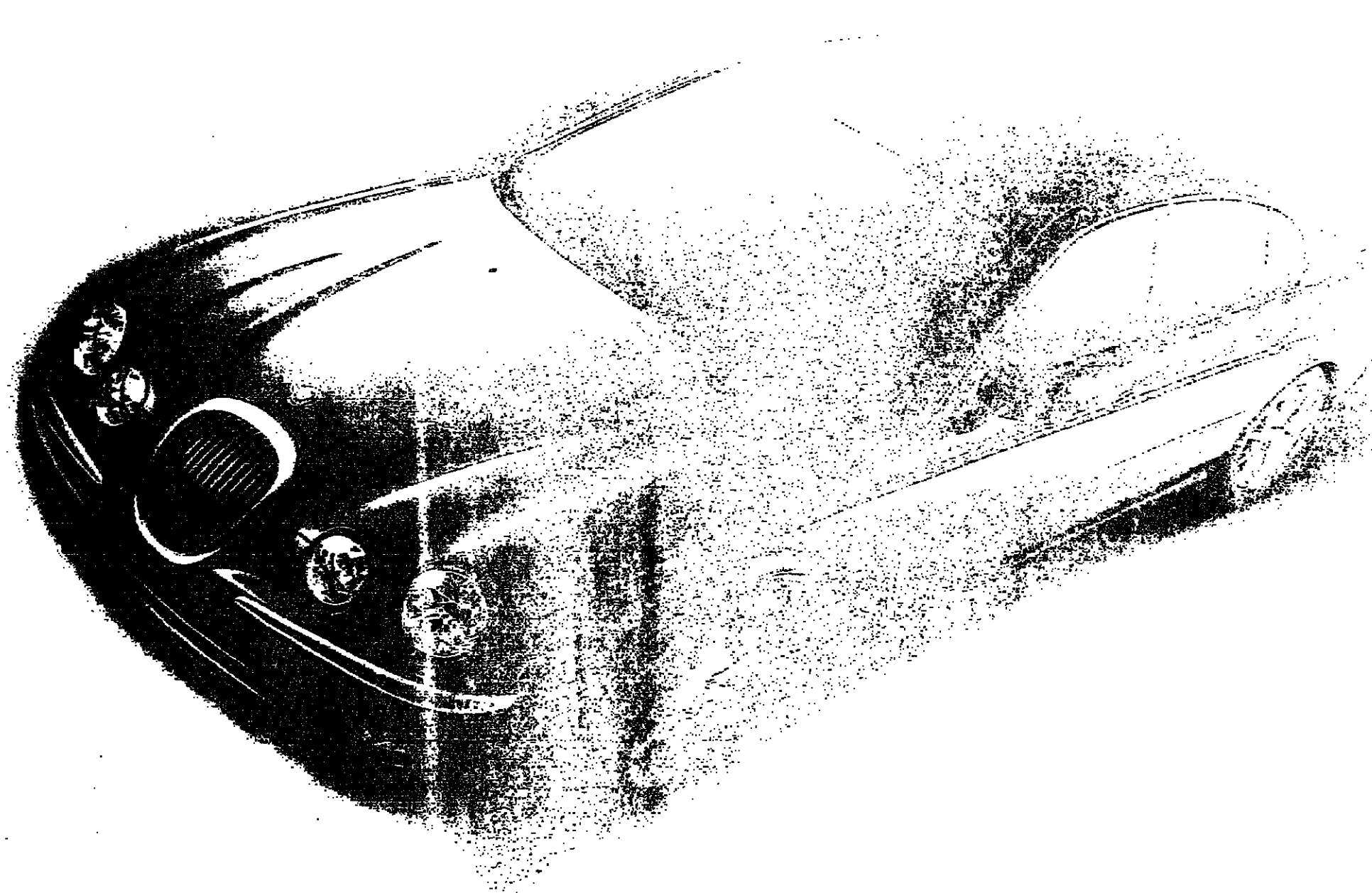
The Japanese whaling industry has been a major force in the country's economy, and the government has been reluctant to support the sanctuary.

The Japanese whaling industry has been a major force in the country's economy, and the government has been reluctant to support the sanctuary.

The Japanese whaling industry has been a major force in the country's economy, and the government has been reluctant to support the sanctuary.



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Adams tries to resolve the arms impasse

SINN FEIN and the IRA kept their negotiating options open yesterday in messages delivered from Easter Rising commemoration platforms, signalling to the government and others that much hard bargaining still lies ahead.

Observers had been watching for a definitive republican response to the draft declaration that emerged from last week's talks on arms decommissioning. Instead Sinn Fein speakers at ceremonies in both parts of Ireland reiterated their generalised assertion that the IRA was under no obligation to disarm. They then tended to steer away from specific responses to the declaration.

The Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, said in Dublin: "I want to pay tribute to the IRA. I commend today's IRA volunteers. 1916 was an IRA uprising. One of the provocations has been the demand on the IRA to disarm. This is something which the IRA has made clear it feels under no obligation to do."

He said he had assured the Ulster Unionist leader, David

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

Trimble, he would do his best to find a way through the arms impasse. But he added: "That is a shared responsibility and none of us have the right to remove the democratic mandate of any section of our people or to step outside of commitments endorsed in the referendum on the Good Friday Agreement."

Although the draft declaration that emerged from last week's adjourned talks at Hillsborough Castle was not formally endorsed by any party, it sent a clear signal to the republicans. This is that the British and Irish governments, and just about everyone else involved in the peace process, regards IRA decommissioning as a political necessity. The accompanying signal was that if some arms are, in the words of the declaration, "put beyond use" then Sinn Fein will be accepted in government.

The political world is now divided into two camps. One set believes that the traditional republican refusal to decommis-

sion will be maintained, partly for abstract ideological reasons and partly because such a move would split the IRA. The other thinks that republicans will indeed put arms "beyond use" in some ingenious way that does not have connotations of surrender because a refusal to do so would bring about the collapse of the peace process in which Sinn Fein has invested so much effort and credibility.

A test of whether the public republican stance represents posturing or reality will come on 13 April, when the adjourned talks are to be reconvened. Either way it is clear that at that point Sinn Fein will attempt to renegotiate the whole decommissioning issue.

The republicans yesterday sought to portray last week's document as a paper agreed between London and Dublin that had not been endorsed by the parties. The Sinn Fein chairman, Mitchel McLaughlin, said: "Good work was done but the political institutions are still blocked and the agreement is stalled and it will take, in my opinion, a huge effort to shift it."



Gerry Adams left the arms issue open during yesterday's speech in Dublin

Ferran Paredes/Reuters

Leeson to be freed in July

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

NICK LEESON, 32, the trader who brought down Barings bank, is to be released from jail in Singapore on 3 July for good behaviour, having served just over half of his six-and-a-half-year sentence.

Leeson, a former securities trader who crippled the merchant bank with debts of £260m, previously failed in his application for early release on medical grounds after suffering cancer of the colon. He underwent an apparently successful operation last August and has received extensive chemotherapy treatment.

There is no precedent for white-collar criminals being freed early on compassionate grounds and successful applications for clemency to Singapore's president, Ong Teng Cheong, are rare. Since 1965, only one inmate has been released early because of ill health. Leeson has simply benefited in the same way any "well behaved" prisoner would, the authorities said.

It is too soon to say whether Leeson will make a full recovery from cancer, but he is said to have responded well to treatment.

When he leaves jail he will find it near-impossible to gain employment in the finance industry, in which he was once a star in the futures market.

The only income he can look forward to is royalties from his book, *Rogue Trader*, and payments for selling the film rights. A film of the same name, starring Ewan McGregor, based on Leeson's rise from a working-class background in Watford, is currently in production.

Leeson's wife, Lisa, has divorced him and recently married Keith Horlock, who is also in merchant banking.

Meanwhile Leeson's father, William, is also fighting cancer and is too ill to visit his son.

Defiant teachers demand £3,000 a year pay rises

TEACHERS WERE poised yesterday to threaten strike action unless they receive pay rises of more than £3,000 a year each.

A motion before the National Union of Teachers' annual conference in Brighton rejected government proposals for performance-related pay and backed strikes in support of an increase of 10 per cent plus £1,000 for all teachers. Dele-

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

gates said all teachers were good teachers and better pay should be given for experience or extra responsibility.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, has offered £1bn over two years to increase salaries in return for performance-related pay based

partly on pupils' results. But Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, said Mr Blunkett would have to release the money eventually, even if teachers refused to accept the new arrangements. Otherwise the Government would face a massive recruitment crisis.

Ian Murch, from Bradford, who seconded the motion for an across-the-board increase, said

many new teachers were living in poverty. Fran Postlethwaite from Barnsley said the £1bn would give every teacher a £2,000 rise immediately. Classroom teachers earn up to £23,000. The motion will be voted on tomorrow. The union has already authorised a ballot for a one-day strike in the summer term. Mr McAvoy said some members would be happy

if that coincided with national tests for 11-year-olds.

Earlier, the conference passed an emergency motion condemning the Government's proposal and calling for strikes and industrial action if ministers refused to back down.

John Vandell, from Hackney in east London, said: "It is arrogant and daft on Blunkett's part to lecture us on

what is going to be good for raising standards in education. We are all super teachers. Why doesn't he pay us as super teachers?"

Jane Nellist, from Coventry, said the proposals would increase stress among children as teachers tried to boost test results at all costs. "We are already seeing play being squeezed out. It will disappear

altogether. Teachers will be forced to teach about commas instead of letting children go and play in the sand tray."

Mr Blunkett told the conference on Saturday they would be "daft" to strike over plans that would give classroom teachers who pass a tough assessment a chance to earn up to £35,000 a year.

Review, page 3



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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

'Just after Christmas a man knocked on our door. He had my mother's purse, with her three rings inside'

STEVE BOGGAN MEETS THE DAUGHTER OF ONE OF THE IRISH DISAPPEARED

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MURRAY, IAN JACK, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SUSANNAH FRANKEL, BRIAN KOPPELMAN, PHILIP HENSHER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID VARONOVICH, DEBORAH ORR, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITAM, SAMUEL JOHNSON

HEALTH
HOW MY CHILD
CONTRACTED TB
PLUS ARTS AND
MEDIA

Bishop sells insurance to congregation

BY ANDREW MULLINS

AN UNCONVENTIONAL Christian sect is under investigation by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) after it emerged that a company run by its bishop provides financial services for much of its congregation.

The Peniel Pentecostal Church in Brentwood, Essex, has also provoked controversy by "taking over" its local Conservative party.

Most of worshippers of the Peniel Church use McCartney and Dowie, a £1.5m insurance-broking empire, to buy their mortgage, pension, life insurance, savings and health insurance. The FSA has visited McCartney and Dowie's offices and is investigating suggestions that members of the Peniel congregation may have been subjected to coercive selling.

The company is owned by Bishop Michael Reid, and his partner, Dr Peter Linnecar, 46, the senior pastor, who, with his wife, Carolyn, 46, head an intricately linked network of church, business and charitable organisations.

Dr Linnecar and his wife are trustees of the Peniel Church, a



Michael Reid: His church is under investigation

registered charity whose latest accounts show an annual income of £2m. Its 800-odd members are encouraged to live nearby and to give 10 per cent of their income to the church. Many send their children to the church school, the Peniel Academy, which has just moved into a £1.3m listed mansion set in 74 acres in Brizes Park, Essex.

Dr Linnecar and the bishop live in large detached houses next to the church. In the bishop's drive are a top-of-the-range Mercedes, registration B2 PFC

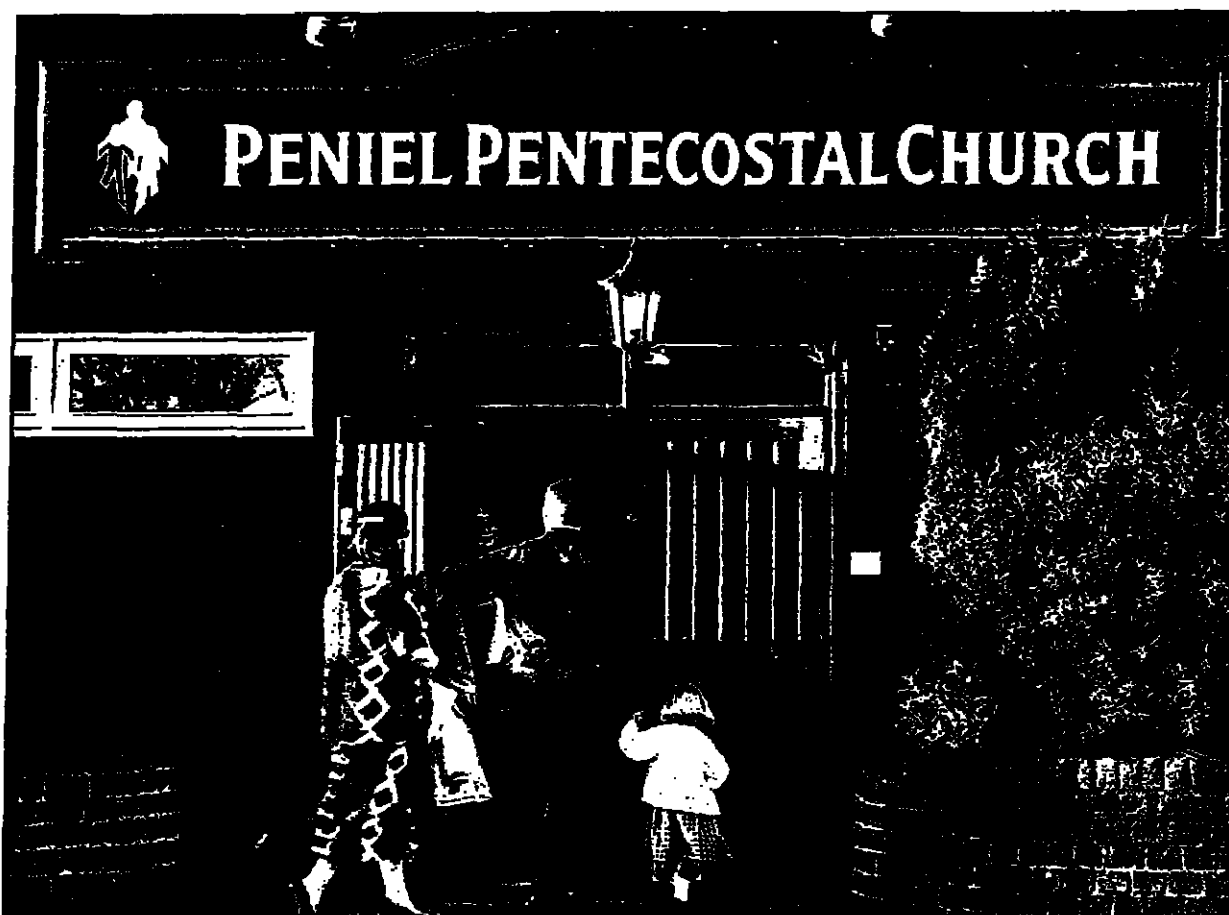
(Bishop to Peniel Pentecostal Church) and a Rover - B3 PFC. Dr Linnecar drives a Lexus.

When *The Independent* attended a "Bible lesson" at the church last week the bishop, 55, dressed in a striped blazer, began and ended his sermon by encouraging worshippers to buy videos and books from Alive UK Ltd. Alive is one of seven directorships he holds in companies jointly owned with Dr Linnecar.

Julia Roworth, who has left the church, was a volunteer in the video editing department. "We did sell quite a lot of videos, especially when we had conferences. We filmed the conference then edited out anything controversial, which is most of it sometimes. Talking about Prince Charles's ears or lefty pinkies or whatever," she said.

The bishop's lessons are often expressed in colourful language. A Muslim who refused to renounce her faith was "a blithering woman", while visiting a topless beach was akin to "doing a dump outside your own back door".

Peniel Pentecostal Church is a member of the Evangelical Alliance, which refuses to talk about the church. It is also a



Members of the Peniel Church congregation arriving for the evening service on Good Friday

Neville Elder

member of the International Communion of Charismatic Churches (ICCC), formed in 1983 by the late Nigerian Archbishop Benson Idahosa, a Nigerian. It was the archbishop who gave Mr Reid his bishopric.

Bishop Reid holds several positions in this group, including Bishop of Europe. Links to other evangelical groups include courses run by the Peniel College of Higher Education, which sells degree courses supplied by the Oral Roberts Uni-

versity, Oral Roberts, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, recently locked himself in a tower and threatened that God would "call him home" unless \$4.5m was donated before a self-imposed deadline.

Robin Ware, a former Peniel member whose ex-wife took some of the courses, is sceptical: "He is offering people degrees and diplomas off the back of what are no better than GCSE courses," he said.

In January last year about 120 Peniel members joined the

Conservative Party, though members of the area's new Independent Conservative group, who claim 200 members themselves, say the figure is as high as 500 today.

Dr Tony Gilbraith, Independent Conservative councillor for Shenfield ward of Brentwood, believes the links with religious groups in the southern US are significant: "It's quite common for churches to get involved in politics there. I think he's trying to do the same thing here."

Caroline Kean, a solicitor representing Bishop Reid, said last night that his house was owned by the church and that he had sold his own house, giving the proceeds to the school and church. She said church finances were not run by the bishop but by the trustees.

The car number plates, she said, were a gift and because Bishop Reid is tall he could not drive a much smaller vehicle. The price paid, she added, "was less than for a Ford Granada".

Beckett attacks 'laddish Labour'

BY PAUL WAUGH AND SARAH SCHAEFER

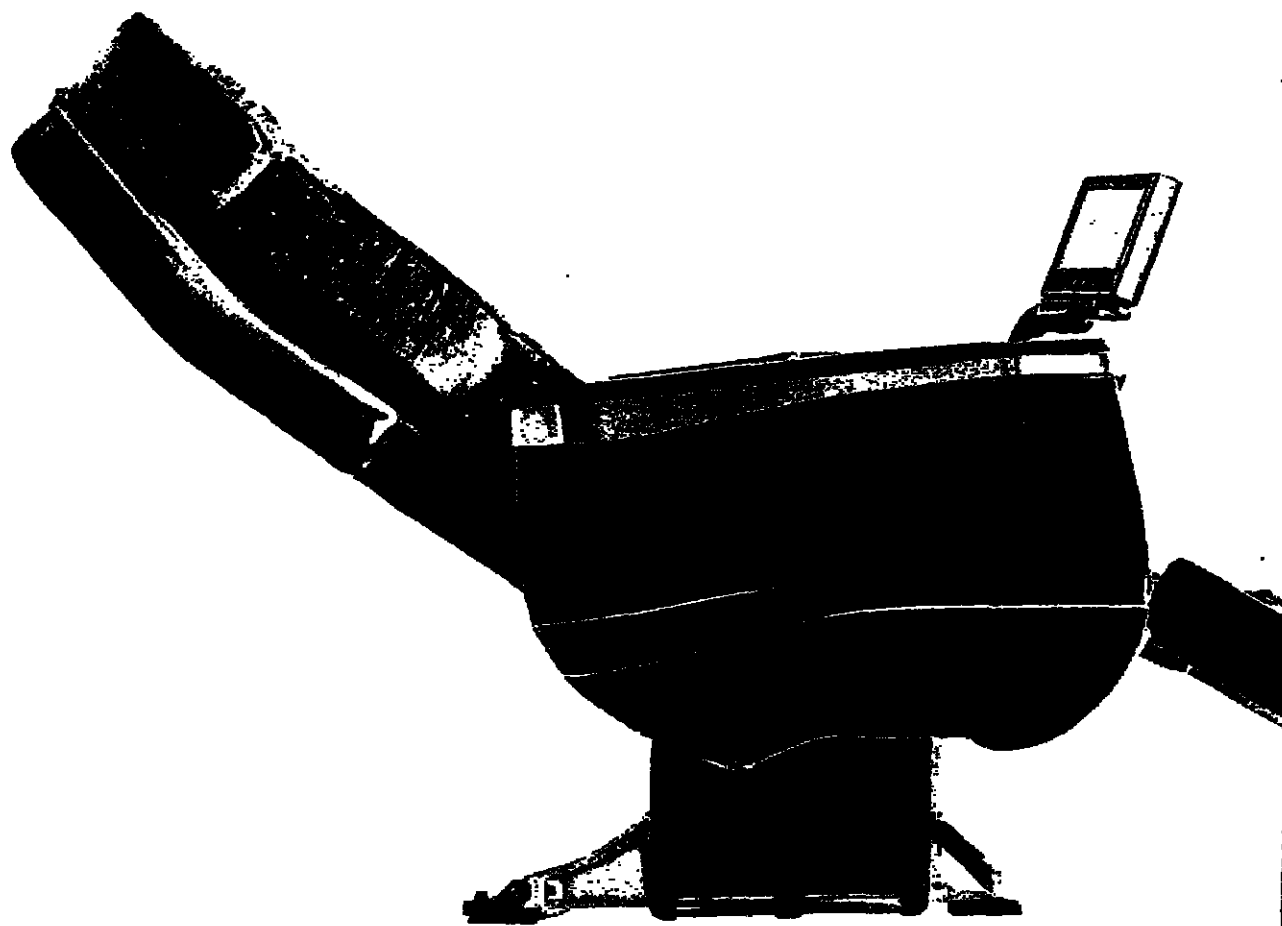
LABOUR'S FEMINIST credentials suffered a double blow yesterday when Margaret Beckett attacked "laddish" elements within the party and the Government was accused of undermining its own women's unit.

Mrs Beckett, the Leader of the Commons and one of only three women in the Cabinet, said she had been a victim of sexism at the hands of Labour and the media.

"It's a problem for anyone who the lads don't think is one of the lads," she said. Mrs Beckett added that the idea of "Blair's babes" trivialised the role of women in Parliament.

Her criticisms were backed up by senior Labour sources, who accused ministers of failing to give the Government's Women's Unit the high-profile backing it needed. The unit was moved into the Cabinet Office last year in an attempt to give it the same status as the Social Exclusion Unit, but has not received the same degree of publicity or support.

Mary Ann Stephenson, from the Fawcett Society, said: "Tony Blair has campaigned a lot for the Social Exclusion Unit but there is a feeling that not the same publicity has been given to women's issues."



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THE MONDAY RIA



Young musicians get in some open-air practice in preparation for the 1999 European Youth Festival of Brass, which was held over the weekend at St Margaret's Roman Catholic School in Livingston, West Lothian
David Moir/Newsflash

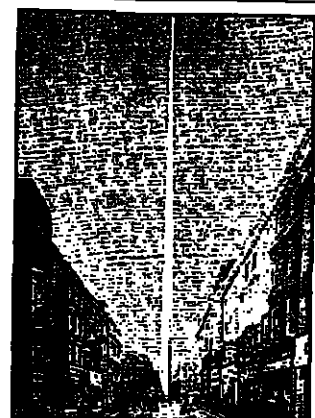
Big spike aims to be Dublin's Eiffel Tower

THIRTYTHREE years after an IRA bomb blew Admiral Nelson off his plinth in Dublin, plans to replace the monument with a modernistic steel spire have provoked an Irish identity crisis. The 120-metre-high spire is to be built in O'Connell Street and will dominate the Dublin skyline. City fathers hope it will come to symbolise the Irish capital in the 21st century.

But as excavations began last week, the noise of drilling was accompanied by the grumbles of residents. Sceptical Dubliners referred to the new monument – designed by an English architect, Ian Ritchie – as “the spike”. One local said: “It looks like a needle, which is unfortunate in the light of Dublin's heroin problem.”

Nelson's Pillar was the focal point of O'Connell Street until it was demolished by an IRA bomb planted to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising. Dubliners used to meet “at the pillar”, and visitors climbed to a platform at the top. Mr Ritchie's slender steel

BY KATHY MARKS



The so-called spike will dominate O'Connell Street

come is to be the centrepiece of a regeneration project for the street, once Dublin's most fashionable thoroughfare, now blighted by crime, traffic fumes and fast-food outlets.

Dublin Corporation wants to transform it into a Parisian-style boulevard, complete with avenues of trees and pavement cafés. O'Connell Street will be

Dublin's Champs-Élysées, so the theory goes, and the spire will be its Eiffel Tower.

The new monument was the winning entry in an international competition. It will be visible all over Dublin when it is erected at the end of this year to mark the new millennium.

But many residents are less than enthusiastic. Some wanted a figurative monument. Candidates suggested included Michael Collins, the Irish nationalist leader, and the author James Joyce. Others favoured a religious theme, such as a statue of St Patrick.

“It will be an eyesore,” pronounced one woman, surveying a model of the spire last week. “It's too cold; it's soulless,” said a bearded young man.

However, Tony Duggan, the senior architect with Dublin Corporation, disagreed. “It was felt to be a symbol of a modern Ireland, a very strong image, a beacon for the city, a clear statement of the confidence that Ireland has at the end of the 20th century,” he said.

Pro-euro Tories in election rebellion

PRO-EUROPEAN Tories are likely to ruin William Hague's hopes of victory in the Newark by-election by fielding their own candidate.

The breakaway group is preparing to split the Conservative Party's vote by contesting the seat left vacant by the conviction of the Labour MP Fiona Jones of election fraud.

Sources within the pro-euro Conservative Party have told *The Independent* that the by-election is “too good an opportunity to miss” to get across its message. The rebel grouping, which recently had its title officially approved despite protests from Conservative Central Office, was formed this year by former Tory MEPs who resigned in protest at Mr Hague's hard line on the single currency.

Faced with a Labour majority of just over 3,000, the Conservatives would need only a small swing to win back a seat they had held for decades until 1997. The Tories were also hoping that the absence of the anti-federalist Referendum Party would give them an edge.

But recent polls have shown that breakaway pro-European Tory candidates could attract significant support and a rebel candidate could take enough votes from the official Conservatives for a Labour victory.

Michael Ancram, the Conservative Party chairman, admitted recently that a “wrecking campaign” by pro-euro rebels could split the Tory vote in the June European elections.

No date has been set for the Newark poll, but Labour sources have suggested June 10 – to coincide with the European elections and increase Tory division on Europe. As the rebel Tories are already fielding can-

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

didates in the MEP elections, they have now said they would “definitely” contest the Nottinghamshire poll if held on the same day. Even if the Government opts for May 6, the date of local council elections, the breakaway group is poised to put up a candidate simply to raise its profile.

John Stevens, who helped to found the new party with his fellow MEP Brendan Donnelly, has already warned the Newark party not to use Eurosceptic language or tactics in the by-election. “If William Hague chooses to make the euro the real issue in the by-election by pursuing a Eurosceptic agenda and bad-mouthing Ken Clarke, then he's got a fight on his hands,” a pro-euro source said.

Ms Jones was forced to quit last month when a court found her guilty of breaching limits on campaign spending in the 1997 general election. Last week, the Tories selected Richard Alexander, MP for Newark for 18 years until he lost to Ms Jones, as their official candidate for the constituency.

Mr Stevens has written to the chairman of the Newark Conservative Association, warning it not to use Eurosceptic language in the by-election campaign. He said that as a Nottingham association, the local party should endorse the right of the nearby MP and former chancellor Kenneth Clarke “and those who think like him” to advocate his pro-euro views.

Mr Clarke was proposing a policy on the euro that he believed to be right, even though it was contrary to the current official line, Mr Stevens wrote.

Police to test CS alternative

POLICE CHIEFS are investigating trials of a safer alternative to CS spray.

The decision by the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) follows pressure from the chief constables of Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Sussex, who have refused to issue CS spray to their officers amid fears that it could cause lasting harm.

Acpo is planning to examine

BY IAN BURRELL

the effectiveness of pelargonic acid vanillylamide, an alternative incapacitant made up of a synthetic chemical related to pepper spray, which does not use the propellant MIBK.

A Home Office-commissioned report by scientists at Porton Down, leaked last year, warned that MIBK could be poisonous and carcinogenic.

MILES KINGTON

Find out why black Fruit Pastilles are always the most popular

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW PAGE 2

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Chinese-US relations hit a new low

WITH DIPLOMATIC relations dogged by scandal and stalemate, the Chinese Prime Minister, Zhu Rongji, arrives in the United States this week for an eight-day tour that will be eclipsed by war in the Balkans. But the shadow over Mr Zhu's visit is unlikely to disappear either side, for US-China relations are, by common consent, as bad as at any point in Bill Clinton's presidency.

On NBC television yesterday, the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, confirmed that she would raise the issue of Chinese espionage at US research institutions. The charges burst into the US media last month with reports that China had stolen the blueprints for miniaturised nuclear warheads from a laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

An outcry in Washington, led by the increasingly strong anti-China lobby in Congress, prompted tighter security at scientific research establishments and the dismissal of a Taiwan-born Los Alamos scientist after questioning by the FBI.

The spying allegations, which

By MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

have still not been proved, revived the acrimonious debate about China policy that has been a leitmotif of the Washington political scene during Mr Clinton's presidency.

China was angered by US congressional votes to proceed with anti-ballistic missile research, fearing that the East Asian security balance could be upset if such "star wars" protection were afforded to Taiwan. And it has been disappointed by its failure to obtain US approval for its membership of the World Trade Organisation.

Washington, in turn, has watched in recent months as headway it believed had been made on human rights went into reverse. There have also been claims that China tried to influence the last presidential election by making illegal contributions to the Clinton-Gore campaign. The Chinese have denied such charges but the Republican Party and the media have continued to pursue them.

Only yesterday, the Los An-

geles Times reported that it had traced a contribution of \$300,000 (£187,000) to the head of the Chinese security service, naming the intermediary as a Clinton associate, Johnny Chung.

The timing of the article (two days before Zhu Rongji arrives in Los Angeles) was hardly coincidental. The party funding issue is an especially sore point with the administration and it could affect Vice-President Al Gore's prospects of winning the presidency next year.

Officials in Washington and Peking insist that relations are not in such bad health as these frictions suggest.

Trade is the one area where interests converge, and the one that critics of the US China policy say has been fostered at the expense of all else. The US wants to reduce China's huge trade surplus with it, at a time when the US trade deficit overall has been swollen by the economic crisis in Asia.

But Washington is even more keen to keep China from devaluing its currency - a temptation that China, to Washington's satisfaction, has so far resisted.



Jim Viola and Margaret Humphries embracing in a devastated trailer park in Benton, Louisiana yesterday AP

Hunt for tornado victims goes on

A TORNADO killed at least six people and injured 100 more when it ripped a trail of destruction four miles wide through the American South on Saturday afternoon.

Witnesses said the huge twister destroyed several dozen trailer homes and houses when it touched down near Benton, a town of 2,000 about 10 miles north of Shreveport in northwestern Louisiana at 4:30pm (11:30pm BST).

"This is a terrible, terrible disaster," the local sheriff, Larry Deen, said. "I've lived here all my life and there's never been anything like this."

Chuck Mazzotti, director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness for Bossier Parish, said six deaths were confirmed at the hardest-hit trailer park and officials were trying to confirm reports of three more deaths near Cypress Lake.

"There may well be more," he said.

"The half-mile-square mobile home park was just destroyed, and until we get someone who worked there, we don't know how many trailers there were or the number of people in them."

"We don't even know how many people we're looking for. We've got mobile homes piled on top of each other two and three deep." (Reuters)

Leading dissident risks arrest on return to China



Wang: Heading home to 'sweep his father's grave'

FOR WANG XIZHE, today will be a sort of homecoming, but not the kind of return an exiled son would really wish for.

Mr Wang, one of China's most famous dissidents, who has lived in America since 1996, will step off his flight from New York to Peking at lunchtime. Ostensibly, he will be going home to pay his respects at the graveside of his father, who died in February. But the reception he

By DARIUS SANAI

receives will determine how serious the Chinese government is about a political crackdown that is seeking to wipe out all memory of the country's democracy movement and silence remaining critics through imprisonment, exile and fear.

Dissident exiles have recently been barred from

returning to their homeland, being turned back at the border in what appears to be a policy of making dissidents indefinitely exiled and stateless. In the past six months at least three exiles who have managed to slip back into the country have been arrested and jailed.

Mr Wang is returning at a time when the Chinese authorities are cracking down on democracy campaigners in

advance of the 10th anniversary in June of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

The Qing Ming festival on 5 April is the day Chinese honour their dead loved ones and has been politically charged ever since anti-government protests erupted 23 years ago.

Fellow exiles in America said that Mr Wang had told them that he wanted to go back to "sweep his father's grave",

a traditional sign of respect for the dead. But his planned return is clearly also a test for Peking's resolve.

Chinese authorities refused to let Mr Wang return when his father died, heightening fears among exiled dissidents that the government was trying to neutralise the danger they posed, without the international embarrassment of a trial and prison sentence. Mr Wang

wrote one of modern China's most famous anti-government petitions, published in 1974, during the twilight years of Mao Tse-tung's rule.

He spent 14 of the next 19 years in prison for campaigning for democracy, and left China illicitly three years ago on hearing that the author of a similar petition had been jailed.

On Saturday, 50 members of a banned opposition party at-

tempted to lay wreaths in the eastern city of Hangzhou in honour of the Tiananmen Square victims, a Hong Kong-based human rights group said.

One group was turned back by police but 20 of the dissidents were allowed to hold a minute's silence at a martyrs' memorial in the city. "Remember the people who gave their lives for freedom and democracy", read the wreath they left behind.

SPECIAL OFFER: HALF-PRICE HOTEL BREAKS

The Independent/Independent on Sunday have joined forces with Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts to offer readers a fabulous weekend promotion. Numerous hotels in the UK and Europe are participating, offering four and five-star accommodation from as little as £69.50 per double room per night inclusive of breakfast and tax.

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Hamburg
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Munich
Forum Hotel
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HOTELS AND RESORTS

Deputy Business & City Editor, Michael Harrison
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2096

BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Tie Rack set for £20m Italian bid

TIE RACK is set to be taken over by an Italian clothing manufacturer in a deal valuing the specialist retail chain at around £20m. Ferria, one of Europe's leading fashion houses, is this week expected to table a bid worth just over 40p a share. The offer is understood to have the backing of Tie Rack's chairman, Roy Bishko, who would retain a role in the business. Tie Rack shares have plunged from a high of more than 200p to 35p, and earlier this year it warned of a £7.5m loss in the 12 months to the end of January. In the last year Tie Rack has rebuffed a takeover approach from the privately owned Sock Shop, while an attempt at a management buy-out has also foundered.

GEC eyes £1.5bn telecoms deals

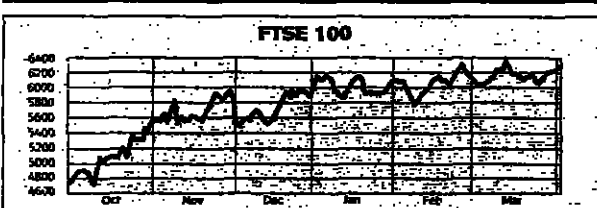
GEC IS POISED to expand its presence in telecoms with twin takeover deals that could cost up to £1.5bn. The group, which is focusing on telecoms and electronic systems following the sale of its defence arm, Marconi, to British Aerospace, is said to be close to a £1bn deal to buy a US data-networking group, GEC, led by chief executive Lord Simpson (pictured), is also thought to be eyeing Robert Bosch's telecoms business, which is worth about £500m.



BA offers loans for holidays

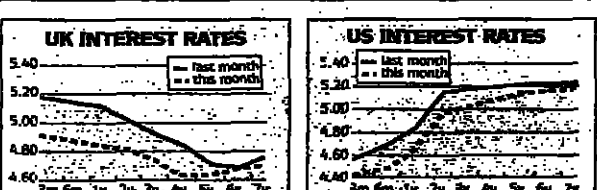
BRITISH AIRWAYS is to start offering loans of between £500 and £15,000 to customers to help pay for their holidays. It is the first step in an expansion of BA's financial services division, which could eventually see the airline running a full-scale retail banking operation. The loan service, operated in conjunction with First National Tricity Finance, will be available through BA travel shops. BA already provides travel insurance and travellers' cheques.

STOCK MARKETS



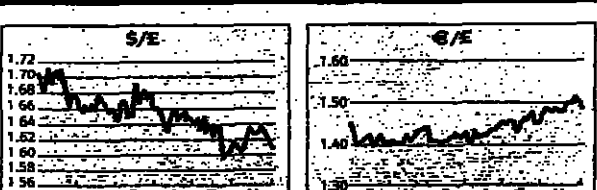
Index	Close	High	Low	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6330.00	190.80	3.11	6399.1	4599.2	2.457
FTSE 250	5453.30	-0.60	-0.01	5970.9	4247.6	3.235
FTSE 350	3023.20	76.50	2.61	3081.2	2210.4	2.58
FTSE All Share	2906.22	71.18	2.51	2931.89	2143.53	2.629
FTSE SmallCap	2405.00	10.70	0.45	2793.8	1834.4	3.639
FTSE 100 Div	1304.70	6.20	0.48	1517.1	1046.2	4.027
FTSE AIM	868.50	9.10	1.05	1146.9	761.3	1.166
FTSE Eurotop 100	2930.87	73.66	2.58	3079.27	2018.15	1.963
FTSE Eurotop 300	1261.08	23.42	1.89	1332.07	880.63	1.897
Dow Jones	9832.51	10.27	0.11	10085.31	7400.9	1.611
Nikkei	16290.18	279.20	1.72	16796.89	12787.9	0.786
Hang Seng	11072.98	269.67	2.50	11506.03	6944.78	3.21
Dax	4914.59	139.42	2.92	5217.83	3833.71	1.639
S&P 500	1293.72	10.92	0.85	1323.88	923.32	1.239
Nasdaq	2493.37	74.20	3.07	2533.44	1357.09	0.786
Toronto 300	6624.81	-10.39	-0.16	7837.7	5320.9	1.588
Brazil Bovespa	10696.35	-169.09	-1.56	12339.14	4575.69	4.85
Belgium Bel20	3265.25	37.30	1.16	3713.21	2696.26	2.018
Amsterdam Eux	333.63	8.07	1.34	600.65	366.58	1.878
France CAC 40	4238.85	114.14	2.77	4404.94	2881.21	1.709
Spain IBEX35	36611.00	961.00	2.70	39170	24175	1.054
Madrid IEX 35	9740.70	81.60	0.85	10989.8	6669.9	1.799
Irish Overall	5286.88	30.69	0.58	5581.7	3732.57	1.577
S Korea Comp	646.78	36.99	6.07	651.95	277.37	1.096
Australia ASX	2973.40	-23.20	-0.77	3005.2	2386.7	3.096

INTEREST RATES



MONEY MARKET RATES					BOND YIELDS			
Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	5.31	-2.29	5.25	-2.36	4.53	-1.29	4.51	-1.22
US	5.00	-0.70	5.25	-0.62	5.20	0.35	5.59	0.25
Japan	0.18	-0.49	0.25	-0.42	1.73	-0.13	2.47	0.01
Germany	2.93	-0.69	2.93	-0.98	4.02	-0.88	4.98	-0.48

CURRENCIES



Index	Friday	1 yr ago	5 yr ago	10 yr ago	20 yr ago	30 yr ago	Yr chg
Pound	1.6037	-2.02c	1.6646	1.6037	1.6037	1.6037	0.6008
Dollar	1.4859	-2.24c	1.4949	1.4859	1.4859	1.4859	0.8571
Yen	193.21	-47.20	222.69	193.21	193.21	193.21	132.75
E Index	102.20	-1.70	108.50	102.20	102.20	102.20	110.70

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	High	Low	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yr chg
Brent Oil (\$)	14.17	0.04	13.68	14.17	13.68	13.68
Gold (\$)	279.85	-3.45	302.25	279.85	279.85	279.85
Silver (\$)	5.01	-0.05	6.45	5.01	5.01	5.01

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.4932	Mexico (nuevo peso)	14.52
Austria (schillings)	19.68	Netherlands (guldens)	3.1550
Belgium (francs)	57.86	New Zealand (\$)	2.9154
Canada (\$)	2.3853	Norway (kroner)	12.48
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8270	Portugal (escudos)	285.55
Denmark (kroner)	10.71	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.8507
Finland (markka)	8.5432	Singapore (\$)	2.6385
France (francs)	9.3938	South Africa (rand)	5.5404
Germany (marks)	2.8097	Spain (pesetas)	237.64
Greece (drachmas)	461.97	Sweden (kronor)	13.00
Hong Kong (\$)	12.07	Switzerland (francs)	2.2891
Ireland (pounds)	1.1267	Thailand (bahts)	54.16
India (rupees)	61.35	Turkey (liras)	551955
Israel (shekels)	5.9970	USA (\$)	1.5686
Italy (lira)	2.786		
Japan (yen)	189.52		
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.8511		
Malta (lira)	0.6145		

MPC expected to cut rates further this week despite rising confidence

Byers sets up taskforce to fight for industry's needs

THE GOVERNMENT is to establish a heavyweight taskforce to champion the interests of manufacturing in the wake of persistent criticism from industry of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee.

Leaders of both sides of industry have been invited to a "summit meeting" to advise on the terms of reference of the new group set up by Stephen Byers, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Although the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, is likely to play down the significance of the move, the MPC will inevitably be expected to take its views on board.

Both unions and management in the manufacturing sector have long attacked the interest rate-setting committee for being dominated by figures from the City and academics with little hands-on experience of industry.

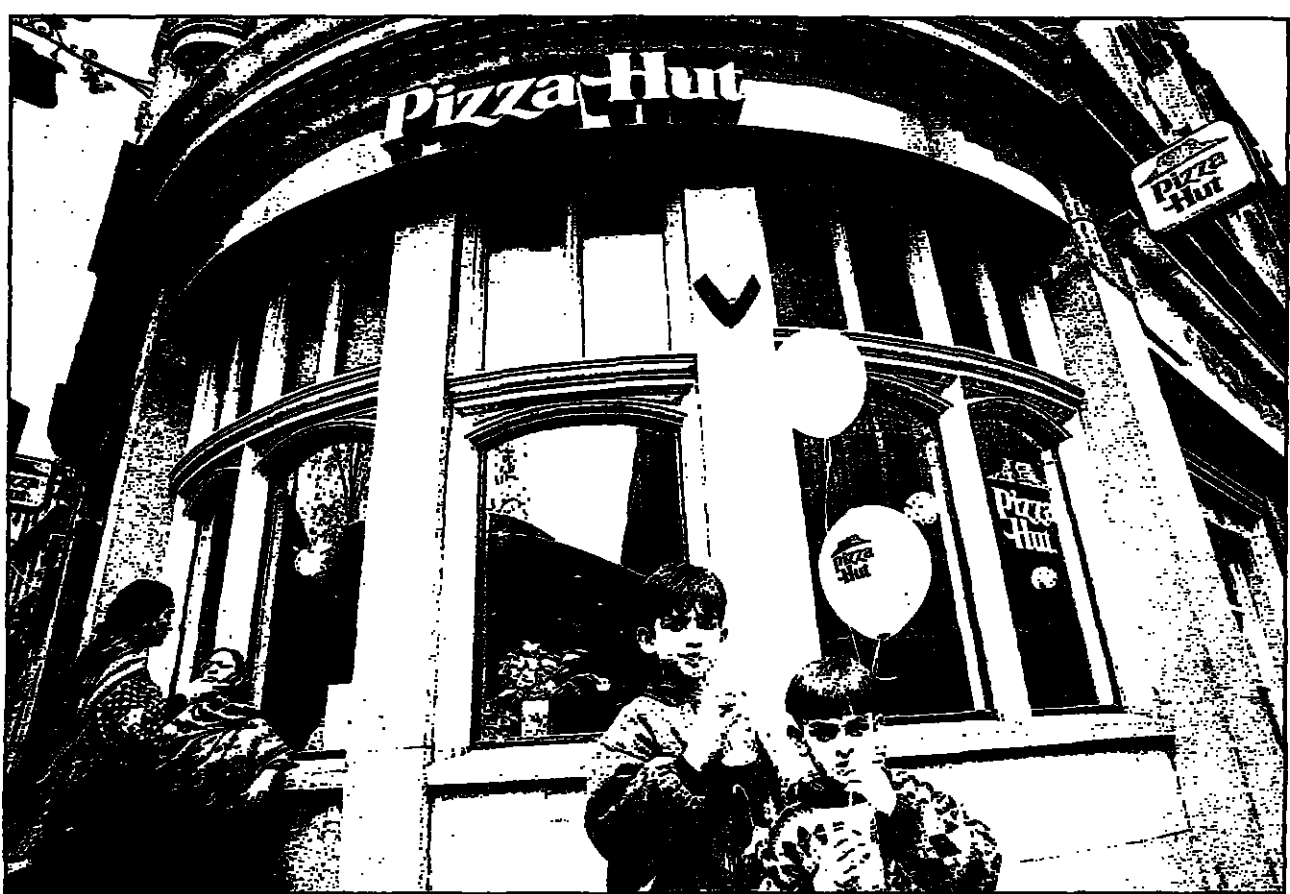
The MPC meets this week, with most City economists expecting a further quarter-point cut in rates to 5.25 per cent, despite evidence of improving business and consumer confidence.

A survey from the Engineering Employers Federation showing a deepening of the recession in manufacturing is certain to be a factor influencing the MPC's decision. The survey predicts 100,000 job losses this year and shows that all key measures of activity - output, home orders, exports, employment and investment - are down on the previous quarter. Apart from putting pressure on the MPC to keep interest rates as low as possible, the taskforce will also be expected to pronounce on the euro and the needs of manufacturing in both the short and long term.

He said the value of the pound and the fact that British interest rates were nearly double those in the euro zone were particular problems. However he regarded the move as a "step in the right direction". He said that Mr Byers had shown a "real commitment" to manufacturing and the people who work in it. "You can't feed more than 50 million people on an island like ours by solely relying on the creative sector and the after-midnight industries," Mr Lyons said. "It's not a question of emphasising the old smokestack industries - we are concerned about the whole of manufacturing, including the software business. We want to establish the kind of wealth-creating engine that a modern society needs."

Mr Byers is expected to invite leaders of the Trades Union Congress, including Mr Lyons, and senior representatives from the Confederation of British Industry, the Engineering Employers' Federation and the Chemical Industries Association.

Trade unionists north of the border have floated the idea of a separate taskforce for Scotland.



Pizza Hut plans a £100m expansion, which will see 100 more outlets open over the next two years Tom Craig

Pizza Hut to create 3,500 jobs

PIZZA HUT, Britain's biggest chain of pizza restaurants, is to create 3,500 new jobs through a £100m expansion programme that will see 100 more outlets open over the next two years. The planned expansion will increase the group's workforce to just under 18,000 and will take the number of Pizza Hut restaurants in the UK to 500.

Jon Prinsell, president and chief executive of Pizza Hut (UK), said it had the potential to triple its business in Britain over the next few years from the present turnover of £300m a year.

"While in the US there is one Pizza Hut for every 30,000 people, and in Australia one per 45,000, in the UK there is only one Pizza Hut restaurant per 150,000," he said.

The addition of 100 new outlets will reduce that ratio to one restaurant for every 130,000 people.

Pizza Hut was founded 40 years ago in Wichita, Kansas and has 12,000 outlets worldwide in 86 countries. It is owned by the US corporation Tricon Global Restaurants, but in the UK Pizza Hut is operated as a joint venture with Whitbread.

The first Pizza Hut in the UK was opened in Islington, north London, and its 400th restaurant opened in Hampstead last month.

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No break-up of Microsoft, says Gates

BILL GATES has dismissed suggestions that his legal battle with the US Justice Department could culminate in the break-up of Microsoft, now the world's biggest company. The founder of Microsoft, one of the world's richest men, also indicated he would oppose any attempts to split the Windows operating system off from the remainder of the company.

In an interview with Director magazine, to be published later this week, Mr Gates says Microsoft is being attacked for having enabled people to connect to the Internet more cheaply.

Asked if Microsoft could be broken up, as the telecoms monopoly AT&T was in the 1980s, Mr Gates says: "No, no, no. AT&T was a government-created situation where they were given a government monopoly and nobody could compete in that space. In our space, the amount of competition is ever-increasing."

The legal case against Microsoft centres around complaints that the software giant cornered the Internet market by incorporating its browser, Internet Explorer, into its Windows operating system.

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Where are all the assistant mistresses?

NOW THAT the awards season is in full swing with Oscars for every profession, except unfortunately the oldest, I am redoubling my efforts to win some sort of prize. I did once have the honour of winning the prize of a rather grand dinner from several colleagues for the biggest gaffe in a journalistic career. Mine occurred when I was a cub reporter in Taunton and Margaret Thatcher was visiting. Asked by the news desk of the paper I then worked for to invest the front-page story with some colour, I wrote with cub-like innocence that "Mrs Thatcher who had spent the night at the home of local MP Edward Du Cann emerged the following morning happy and smiling". All over the West Country people were giggling in a most unpleasant manner.

However, national awards, wrongly in my view, do not recognise the gaffe of the year. And since I have been overlooked by this year's journalistic prize-givers, I have decided to go for a literary prize. I am encouraged in this as many of these prizes are awarded for introducing local subject matter into a literary work. Living in Pinner, a suburb already immortalised in verse by Bejman, the opportunities are endless. Bejman seemed to be enguiled with suburban angst when he wrote:

"Dear Charles and Carrie, I am sure,

Despite that awkward Sunday dinner,

Your lives were good and more secure

Than ours at cocktail time in Pinner."

But now that we have learnt Bejman was a wartime spy, all becomes much clearer. The awkwardness must have referred to his Sunday debriefings. Perhaps he had infiltrated one of the six (I kid you not) local tennis clubs and divulged the top-secret minutes from the committee meetings. The cocktail time had long puzzled me; but who knows what hidden speakeasy the late poet laureate had discovered at the back of the Love Lane Tearooms. Add some love interest with the girl guide leader's moonlit walks with the stockbroker in the memorial park; and all the ingredients of a blockbuster are there.

AN EVEN better setting than Pinner for a novella, or better still a play or film, would be the Liverpool Institute school in the 1950s. The school



DAVID
LISTER

ON MONDAY

at that time contained Peter Sissons, who went on, of course, to become a newsreader. Derek Hatton, who became a leading firebrand with the Militant Tendency, and Paul McCartney who went on to become Sir Paul McCartney. Peter Sissons once told me that Hatton had accused him years later of bullying him, a vision to boggle the mind. Surely there must have been a rainy afternoon when the three gathered in a deserted classroom and discussed their aspirations. Perhaps Hatton and Sissons were offered drums and rhythm guitar respectively in Paul's new group but were too immersed in school politics and journalism to be interested. It has all the makings of a Tom Stoppard script. And if Sir Tom is worried that there is one ingredient missing for an Oscar nomination, then no doubt there was a scouse school matron perfect for Gwyneth Paltrow.

EASTER is a time of quiet reflection, unless you are a teacher - when it is the one time of year you can unwind from weeks of having to be a role model and yell abuse at a cabinet minister. The conferences of the teachers' unions

are bizarre rituals that I used to cover when I was an education correspondent. What used to puzzle me most, as I studied train timetables to get from Scarborough to Bournemouth then nip across to Oxford via Harrogate, was why there needed to be quite so many teachers' unions (half a dozen or more) and why teachers, who are bright about most things, didn't realise how that fact diminished their bargaining power. And the nomenclature was all but meaningless. You might have thought that the one thing that distinguished the Secondary Heads Association from its rival headteachers' union, the National Association of Headteachers, was that it had more secondary heads. Not a bit of it. It had fewer. And the poor classroom teacher always had about five different unions trying to recruit him or her. The first day in the staffroom must have seen more bullying than in the playground. Some of the more exotic names have disappeared, alas - The Association of Assistant Mistresses could set the pulse racing. But despite amalgamations there are still too many teachers' unions. What's more, the different union conferences always had nearly identical agendas, the Secretary of State for Education would attend all of them and make virtually identical speeches.

My favourite was the late Keith Joseph, who would effortlessly quell even the rowdiest NUT audience by asking them to put their hands up. He'd say something along the lines of "How many of you teach history, how many of you do after-school sport" etc. He must have sensed that teachers have an uncontrollable reflex resulting from years in the classroom. When asked to raise their hands they immediately stop heckling and do so.

AT THIS time of year I grow antagonistic towards Nick Hornby. It is the climax of the football season and I should be experiencing a private delight in the discomfort of my fellow man, as my team, Arsenal, are in with a shout for the league and cup. But Hornby's wretched book and movie has made



Peter Sissons and Derek Hatton missed out on forming the Beatles with fellow Liverpool Institute pupil Paul McCartney

supporting Arsenal irritatingly fashionable. When I was a boy and a supporter of the then-boring - and usually losing - club it was something you kept quiet about. They had no style, no stars, and the nearest thing to a celebrity supporter was Pete Murray, a decidedly untrendy disc jockey. But being in a small unfashionable minority gave you a sense of perverse pride. It was a rite of passage. Now the combination of Hornby and a continental manager and players means that every tom, dick and literary editor you meet follows Arsenal. I even find increasing numbers of arty young women claiming allegiance. A Royal Academy staff member told me she fit-

ted in seeing exhibitions around the demands of her season ticket.

And worse, whereas we Arsenal supporters used to be independently minded with a talent for witty, risqué, provocative and filthy terrace songs, a large screen at the ground now instructs supporters not only when to sing but what to sing. The anodyne "Come On You Reds" is flashed up at regular intervals with a giant computer graphic of two hands clapping for those with reading difficulties. The crowd never fails to take its cue. This is Orwellian football supporting indeed, with Big Brother now a cheerleader. I can comfort myself only by imagining what graphics such a screen might have con-

tained in the more anarchic days when I first started going to Highbury. Perhaps a simulated pitch invasion, or the referee's parents declaring they really were married.

A FASCINATING experiment is taking place at my local theatre, the Palace in Watford. Harold Pinter, who is directing a play by Simon Gray there, has decreed that the theatre stop selling sweets as the noise of them being unwrapped could detract from "the delicate atmosphere of the play". A notice to that effect greets everyone entering the building. It is a laudable precedent. But I fear it does not go far enough. I would like to see two

doctors with stethoscopes at the entrance to every auditorium baring the way to the bronchial cases who like to spend their evenings in the warmth of the stalls.

Audiences have had it too easy for too long. Film directors should be empowered to decree whether popcorn can be munchied in the cinema. Novelists should be entitled to a view on whether their book loses something by being read on a crowded train. And while we're about it, owing to the delicate nature of this article, it should not be read with the television on, with children in the room or by anyone sitting opposite a genuine purchaser reading the front page.

John Walsh is away

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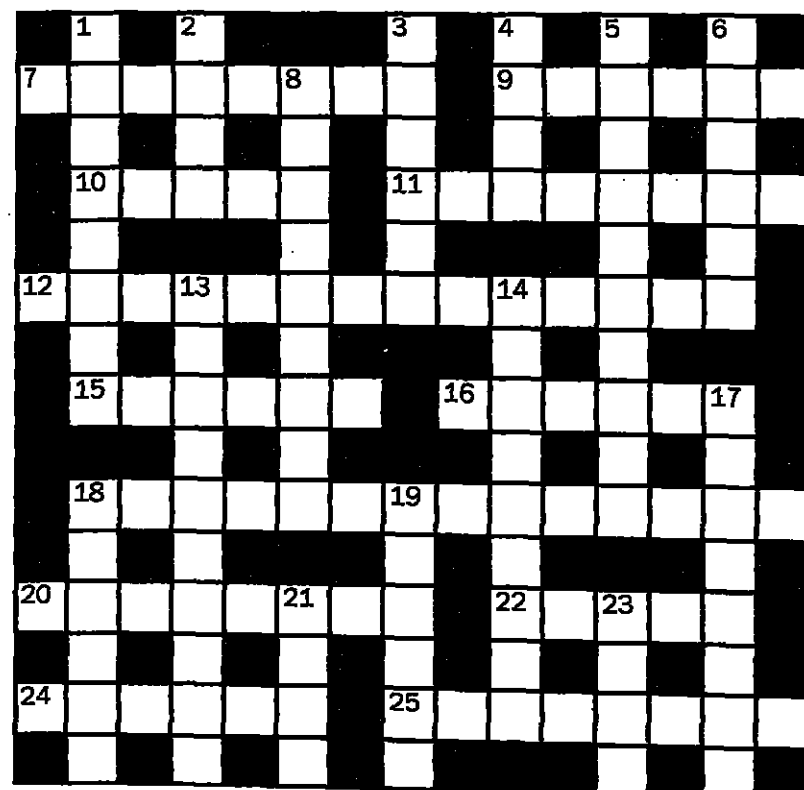
No.3588 Monday 5 April

ACROSS

- 7 Obliging Scottish chap to be a non-combatant (8)
- 9 Accepted executive's getting on (6)
- 10 Sounds like old German currency (5)
- 11 Bit of a joke? (3-5)
- 12 Political fixers resent my using one somehow (3,2,4,5)
- 15 Girl's endlessly boring one in church (6)
- 16 Turn up mine in error (3,3)
- 18 Yet has got fears about literary classic (3,7,4)
- 20 Flourishing line in home insurance (2,6)
- 22 Praise for officer after returning tool (5)
- 24 Sign around mile point bearing island's name (6)
- 25 Gone about second place being in doubt (8)

DOWN

- 1 Ground that's been well covered? (8)
- 2 Singer's itching to stand up (4)
- 3 Loose bearings, utterly ruined (6)
- 4 It's said to be advance level (4)
- 5 Ask nothing to country concerned (10)
- 6 Veggie food not dried by the sun (6)
- 8 Unknown make of gin and tonic
- 13 none will finish (9)
- 18 Kind of craft? (6)
- 19 Quite a big step for trustee to invest in bank (6)
- 21 Lazy group of workers without backing (9)
- 23 Border area only (4)



FULL COVERAGE OF EASTER SPORT IN 16-PAGE SECTION

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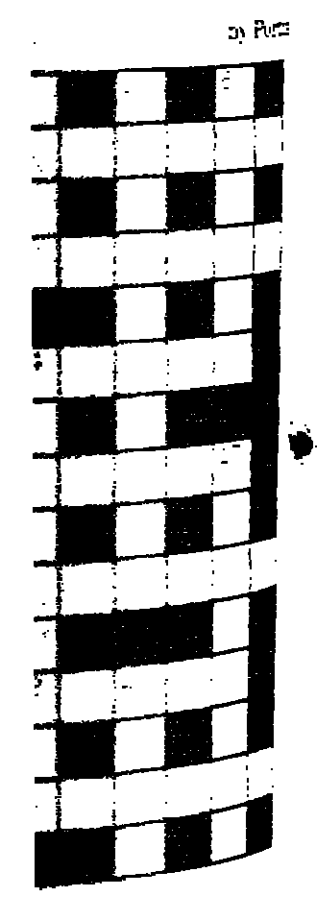
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THE INDEPENDENT
Monday 5 April 1999

ises?



Paul McCartney



SECTION

THE INDEPENDENT

3 Robbie Fowler
apologises
for his
controversial
celebration

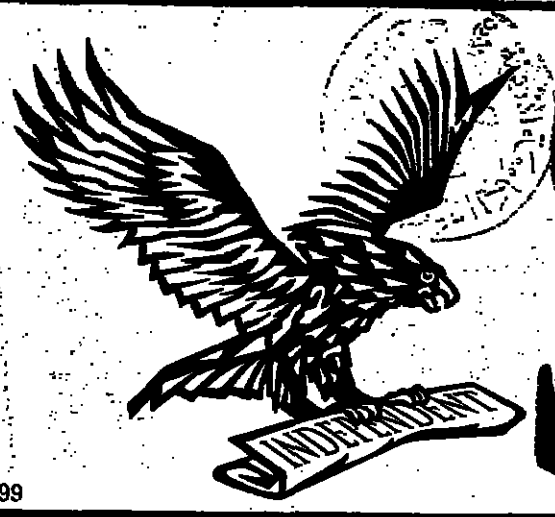


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Williams sees
Juventus in
poor shape
for United

8 Low-profile
Westwood
plots an
attack on
The Masters



12 Cards for
all 15 Bank
Holiday
race
meetings



SPORT

5 April 1999

Davis Cup: Martin can find no answer to British No 1's courage in tense final day's play

Henman the marathon man

BY JOHN ROBERTS
in Birmingham

AN EPIC Davis Cup tie between Britain and the United States at the National Indoor Arena here went to a fifth match after a test of endurance between the No 1 players. Britain's Tim Henman pushed his time on court to 10 hours and 44 minutes for the three days in defeating Todd Martin, who was nursing a strained stomach muscle, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4).

"Three hours 17 minutes is a little bit short for me," Henman said in jest to the 9,320 spectators, adding with refreshing honesty: "I think [the match] turned on a questionable call. You've got to take them when they come your way."

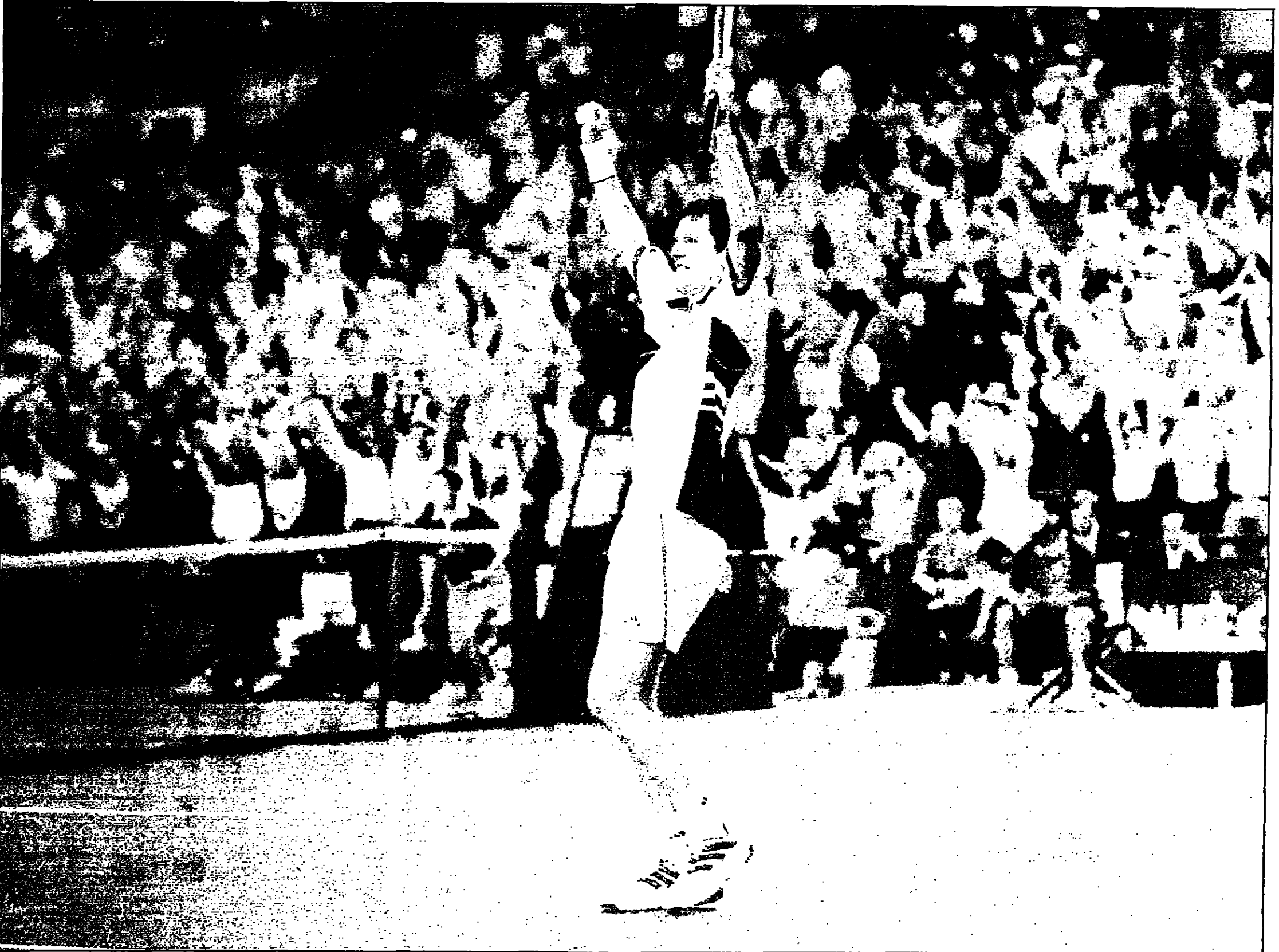
The call in question was a backhand volley from Martin that would have taken the American to 4-3, 40-15 after he had just broken Henman in the second set. The ball appeared to land on the line, but was called wide. Martin, clearly unsettled by the decision, overhit his next backhand volley over the baseline to offer a break point, and Henman converted it with a backhand down the line for 4-4.

"Walking off the court, I hated to feel like I wanted to make an excuse for myself," Martin said. "It was my fault that I lost my concentration, but it would have been a lot easier to keep my concentration if that call had been made properly. I would not expect Tim to give me the point in this situation - in a singles match in a tournament somewhere, but not in Davis Cup. It is possible he could have seen it wrong, and that I could have seen it wrong, and the lines lady could have seen it correct, but I don't think so."

After controlling events until that juncture, Martin found himself in a contest. He double-faulted to 15-40 in the 12th game, Henman taking the second of the set points, returning a second serve so well that Martin could do no more than hit a backhand into the net. The match was one hour and 37 minutes old, and Henman's revival was under way, backed by an louder walls of sound than before. "The crowd were keeping me in it in the first two sets when he was dominating," Henman said.

The opening set had ominous signs that Martin was about to take charge, as he had done in three of their four previous matches, including the quarter-final at Wimbledon in 1996. Although the American began to benter with the crowd as early as the fifth game, he was calm enough to take advantage of Henman's erratic serve and forehand to break for 4-3, setting himself with a superb forehand lob to 30-40. Henman had a break point for 4-4, Martin rescuing himself with an ace and two service winners.

Once Henman had levelled the match, the usually affable Martin found himself at odds with the spectators more often than was good for



Tim Henman celebrates his four-set triumph over Todd Martin. The victory took Britain's Davis Cup tie against the United States into a decisive fifth rubber yesterday

David Ashdown

his game. Bouncing the ball while waiting for noises off court to subside tended to irritate the excited crowd, and a ball Martin hit at the advertising hoarding at the back of the court came close to striking a line judge.

Henman won the opening three games of the third set, but Martin broke back for 2-3 on his fourth break-point of the fifth game. The American was to save three break points in the sixth game, but double-faulted to 0-40 to give Henman

the opening he needed at 4-3, the Briton punishing a second serve. Martin's condition was not improved when he tumbled while attempting to intercept a backhand volley that gave Henman his second set point. Martin was then unable to keep a backhand in play down the line.

In spite of his set-backs, Martin seemed certain to force the match into a fifth set after breaking for 5-3 in the fourth, Henman netting a backhand on the third break point.

Even though Henman recovered the break in the next game, with a splendid forehand drive to the corner, Martin had a set point with Henman serving at 5-6. The Briton, who had double-faulted on deuce, salvaged the position with an angled forehand volley, and the crowd breathed again before moving to the edge of their seats in anticipation of the tie-break.

Henman eased the tension by winning the first four points. Martin recovered one of the mini-breaks, for

2-4, but the shoot-out then proceeded with serve. Henman took a 6-4 lead with his 18th ace, delivered at 120 mph, and was able to convert the first match point. Martin returning serve with a backhand into the net. After shaking Martin's hand, Henman raised his arms in response to the crowd's roars and then raced to the side of the court for a series of high-fives with his team mates and the coaching and training staff. It had been a memorable week-

end for the 24-year-old from Oxford, starting with the disappointment of losing the opening match to Jim Courier in five sets on Friday, and then partnering Greg Rusedski to a five-sets victory in Saturday's doubles.

Bunny Austin, 92, a member of the only British team ever to win a tie from 0-2, against Germany at London's Queen's Club on 24 April 1930, said he watched every ball on television. He thought the doubles victory by Henman and Rusedski

against Martin and Alex O'Brien was wonderful. "The way they played was absolutely beautiful," he said. In an early shock Sweden, the holders, fell to a first-round exit at the hands of Slovakia in front of their own fans in Trollhattan yesterday. The man who caused the damage was the Slovak No 1, Karol Kucera, who played in three matches at the weekend and completed victory last night by beating Thomas Enqvist in four sets.

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The Second Coming

ABBOT ALE, WORSHIPPED SINCE 1799

Keegan remains England's key candidate

ENGLAND'S VICTORY over Poland under Kevin Keegan was put into stark perspective by Sweden's single-goal win over the Poles in Chorzow four days later. Effectively this means that England's best chance of qualifying for Euro 2000 will be through the two-legged play-offs next autumn. Sweden are five points ahead in England's group and other countries, most notably Ukraine and Romania, both with 11 points from five matches, are likely to beat England in the rankings for best runners-up.

So, when the Football Association and Keegan sit down to discuss their future after the new coach's four-match

tenure of office, they are likely to be facing the prospect of another four games before England's Euro 2000 fate is known. It is highly unlikely that a change of management will be made at that time.

Then, if the friendly match against Hungary in Budapest later this month survives the Balkan conflict, it will not provide much of a pointer to the future. Already Keegan is talking of introducing fringe players as the run in to the Premier League title heats up. And the Hungarian team of the 1990s is far from the wonderful pioneers of the '50s. They currently trail Portugal and Romania in their group.

Keegan's hand in June will

be as strong as it is today. He does not cunningly map out his future, but is shrewd enough to make the most of the favourable cards that fall to him. Nobody believes the England display against Poland was flawless, but the reaction afterwards has confirmed that the FA has never had its heart in the search for a permanent successor to Glenn Hoddle. All its spokesmen have said is that they would like Keegan to change his mind and take the job full-time.

At least things have changed since a previous chairman of the international committee refused Bobby Robson's request for a No 2, saying: "There's not enough work for



GRAHAM KELLY

you, never mind an assistant."

If someone new were appointed in June, it would be a cause of further disruption, not only to the England team but also, assuming the person is currently a club manager, to

the club concerned. The club would already have made plans and sold tickets for the new season. Liverpool had to wait until after the World Cup final last July to confirm Gerard Houllier's appointment and they have never rectified problems that were apparent from the start of the season. It may be that the FA is looking at a coach from the continent where coaches' contracts are often shorter-term and changes are more frequent. But there is no evidence of this.

Perhaps there are some closet Manchester United supporters at Lancaster Gate hoping the Reds will win Alex Ferguson's long-cherished European Cup and thus free

the Scot to allow his name to go forward as a candidate for the England job. He is surely the right age to release the reins of club and move to the national stage. And friendly with Howard Wilkinson. However, given the rivalry between England and Scotland, this is a long shot.

Roy Hodgson is out of favour with the FA, while it would be a big gamble to go for Martin O'Neill. And I would not wish the job on Peter Reid just now - far better he stays with the magnificent Sunderland supporters who idolise him. The FA said Terry Venables would not be ruled out, but I doubt whether his telephone has rung yet. Bryan Robson has

reportedly blotted his copy-book off the field.

There are obvious difficulties in trying to carry on with a part-time manager throughout a full season. The problems faced by a manager with a Nationwide League club are probably greater, because teams play more League matches and there is less flexibility in the fixture schedules. Fulham could easily be involved in play-offs at the end of May in 2000 just when England, hopefully, will be preparing for the European Championship finals. But maybe Mohamed Al Fayed's offer to release Keegan has demonstrated a way forward. Perhaps Keegan could give, say, a quarter of his time

to Fulham under some form of consultancy arrangement.

The majority of his commitment would then be to England. Wilkinson, the technical director, is now fully involved in the organisational and back-up work for all the England teams. The coach no longer has to worry about any medical or scouting issues. The Under-21 team is not now the responsibility of the head coach. The much-needed continuity is provided by the technical director's back-room set-up.

Given that Keegan wants the England job - and on the evidence so far he has taken to it like a duck to water - this seems to be the likeliest way forward.

Hughes typifies Saints' spirit

WHO WOULD have thought it. Arsenal, of all teams, muscled out of their Premiership stride.

If Arsène Wenger's side were expecting their hosts to be genial after a relaxing mid-season break on the west coast of Ireland they were under a misapprehension as Southampton returned with a whirlwind display of determination and commitment. They played the champions at their own game, hustling, hustling and harrasing their way to an important point.

Even the Southampton mascot was in on the deception. Before the match Super Saint, the dog, sat relaxed in the centre circle, throwing his out-sized furry paws to the heavens with an air of bufoonish exasperation at the task in hand. His team were a lot less affable and bared their teeth from the start. "We couldn't let up against them. Every time they picked up the ball I wanted one of my players in their face," Dave Jones, the manager, said.

Jason Dodd and Scott Hiley, in midfield, were exceptional in this regard as was a more experienced campaigner. Since his transfer from Chelsea, Mark Hughes has not scored in 28 games and has now been booked a record 15 times this season. But if supporters might occasionally wonder if the time is approaching when it would be kinder to take the old war horse out and shoot him, it was Hughes's will, bravery and sheer bloody-mindedness which set the tenor of Southampton's performance.

His physical battles with Martin Keown, Tony Adams and Patrick Vieira were frankly heroic, but the Frenchman's refusal to shake hands after the match suggested that he took Hughes's fighting spirit personally. An ungracious response from a player with a six-inch height advantage over the combative Welshman. Hughes it was who came closest to scoring as he scraped a

BY PETER CONCHIE

Southampton 0
Arsenal 0

cross by Egil Østenstad from under his feet and struck the post and later had a diving header saved by David Seaman.

In orchestral terms Arsenal retained the services of their main performers but were missing their conductor and principal soloist, with Dennis Bergkamp and Marc Overmars absent after the Netherlands' mid-week friendly against Argentina. The first half was as discordant a composition as one might imagine from two teams who needed a victory so much. Arsenal lacked creativity while the extent of Southampton's ambition stretched only as far as inhibiting their opponent's expression.

"It's two points dropped for us," Jones said afterwards. "We're the home side and we've got to take three points." A bold sentiment given that the visitors were the champions, but Jones had a point. Southampton have an appalling away record but remain unbeaten at home in 1999.

With planning permission now granted for a new 33,000-seat stadium in the St Mary's district of the city, it may be too late to hang an intimidatory "This is the Dell" placard on the tunnel wall, but Southampton are acquiring a reputation with their tidy home run.

"Some teams would have lost here today," Wenger quite correctly noted afterwards. And there, but for the width of a post, went Arsenal.

Southampton (4-4-2): Moss; Collier, Morley, Underwood, Hiley; Ripley (Bennett, 65), D. Hughes, Dodd, Bridge, M. Hughes, O'Sullivan (Boatue, 54). Substitutes not used: Work (64), Williams, Stansfield, Arsenal (4-4-2): Seaman; Dixon, Adams, Keown (Boatue, 84), Wiersma, Vieira, Fauroux, Ljungberg (Boatue, 65), Diawara (Wise, 77), Anzures, Kanu. Substitutes not used: Lark (64), Grimsdell. Referee: P. Jones (Loughborough). Bookings: Southampton: Collier, Morley, M. Hughes, Arsenal: Vieira. Man of the match: M. Hughes. Attendance: 15,255.



Gary Speed's diving header is the first of two goals the in-form Newcastle midfielder scored at Pride Park

Laurence Griffiths/Allsport

Gullit caught in two minds

FOR A man who claims he will be hiding nothing when Newcastle and Tottenham stage an FA Cup semi-final rehearsal this afternoon, Rudi Gullit was giving little away.

Would Alan Shearer, ruled out on Saturday, be ready to return? Would Duncan Ferguson, now close to fitness, play any part? Did he know which team he would like to put out at Old Trafford next Sunday? Would he be keeping any secrets today?

"No, no secrets," he said. "I won't be playing any mind games with George Graham. I will not be trying to hide things."

Were the Tottenham manager to try to elicit Gullit's first-choice semi-final line-up, however, he would be disappointed. Gullit, apparently, doesn't even know it himself yet.

"I don't have a team in mind," Gullit said. "It depends on form. We played well today, offensively, but you are influ-

BY JON CULLEY

Derby County 3
Newcastle United 4

enced also by what happens in training as well as in matches."

Newcastle were in training yesterday, with Shearer and Ferguson involved. But to questions over what part they might play today Rudi would say no more than "we shall see". And there the matter was left.

The truth, one suspects, is that Gullit is a manager with a difficult choice to make. He had just witnessed perhaps Newcastle's most incisive attacking performance under his charge (forget the defending, for the moment) yet surely have been planning to restore Shearer and Dietmar Hamann (nursing minor injuries on Saturday) to the starting eleven and seems to have Ferguson - out since January - to a semi-final schedule. To change or not to change a winning side: the classic manager's headache.

And on this occasion a subject about which the man hiding nothing would reveal very little.

His inquisitors did try. "Was this the way he wanted his team to play?" someone asked, having listened to Gullit's fulsome praise of the way Temuri Ketsbaia, Silvio Maric and Norberto Solano had combined in rapid inter-plays at Pride Park and knowing full well that with Ferguson on board - even Shearer, to a lesser degree - the style would have to change.

"There is not one way I want to play, not one ideal," Gullit countered, side-stepping as neatly as in his playing days. "It depends on the opposition, on the occasion." But would he be happy to play this team in the semi-final? "Yes, I would," he said. Aha, Progress...

"But we shall see. Let's just celebrate a victory today, shall we?"

It was worth celebrating, too, after 90 minutes of breath-taking entertainment in which Derby, as vibrant in attack and accident prone in defence as their opponents, twice led and twice gave away their advantage before Newcastle finally imposed themselves when Solano volleyed home the goal of the afternoon.

Derby, inspired at first by Francesco Baiano's outstanding form, might have won the day themselves with better luck. Deflections played a part in two of the goals they conceded - crucially in Ketsbaia's case - while only a brilliant save by Shay Given from Mikkel Beck denied them a 3-2 lead. What's more, as Jim Smith pointed out, another referee might have shown Nikos Dabizas a red card for the shirt pull on Baiano that gave Derby their penalty.

But Newcastle, driven with great purpose by Rob Lee and Gary Speed in midfield, were huzzing, not least, one imagined, because of the doubts cast by Smith over their eligibility for next season's UEFA

Cup, their participation in which, it was confirmed last week, is almost guaranteed by their FA Cup semi-final appearance, win or lose. The idea that Derby might qualify by finishing fifth in the Premiership has been knocked on the head. "I could tell that they were up for the game," Gullit said. "Offensively, we gave an excellent performance. We were not happy about our defending and as a coach it is my duty to point out the mistakes. But overall I am a happy coach."

Happy... but not sure, it seems, about what to do next. Goals: Burton (8) 1-0; Speed (11) 1-1; Baiano (pen 22) 2-1; Speed (24) 2-2; Ketsbaia (39) 2-3; Solano (60) 2-4; Wanchop (90) 3-4. Derby County (3-4-1-2): Hoult; Prior, Carbone, (Menchop, 65), Laurson; Borobis, Bohinen, Schuster (Sturridge, 82), Dorogi, Baiano, Burton, Beck. Substitutes not used: Poom (64), Harper, Murray. Newcastle United (4-4-2): Given; Hughes, Chiver, Lobotz, Griffin; Solano (Bradley, 65), Lee, Speed, Dodd; Ketsbaia, Maric (Saha, 75). Substitutes not used: Harper (64), Caldwell, Anderson. Referee: D. Gallagher (Banbury). Bookings: Derby: Prior, Burton. Newcastle: Lobotz. Man of the match: Lee. Attendance: 32,039.

Charlton offer no shocks for Hitchcock

BY CONRAD LEACH

Charlton Athletic 0
Chelsea 1

THE APPEARANCE of Kevin Hitchcock in the Chelsea goal for the start of the second half should have seen an immediate rise in tension in the visitors' penalty area, not just because he shares his name with the master of suspense, Alfred, but because he was making his first start of the season, in place of a flu-stricken Ed De Goey.

Yet that Hitchcock was not tested once by Charlton's forwards spoke volumes for Chelsea's defence as they hung on to Roberto Di Matteo's first-half goal and kept their first clean sheet in a League match for two months.

With eight games remaining and despite the protests to the contrary of their manager, Gianluca Vialli, Chelsea remain in the title hunt. The win here combined with Arsenal and the leaders, Manchester United, both drawing their games meant the third-placed Blues cut the deficit to five points and, if they win their game in hand, that gap can be reduced to just two points.

Vialli just about conceded that if that does happen, then Chelsea would be in with a chance of their first championship since 1955, but he made it clear it was a very big "if". For the time being he is happy to let the top two slug it out. He said: "The two teams above us are more experienced and won't throw it away. This is not a psychological game. They are in front of us and not by chance."

Protecting Hitchcock was the tried-and-trusted back four, but Vialli singled out Marcel Desailly for special praise in the light of having played in two internationals for France in the previous week. The World Cup-winning duo of he and Frank Leboeuf were operating at full strength, blocking out all the daylight between Charlton's attack and any sight of Hitchcock's goal. The defence's form in particular bodes well for Chelsea's European Cup Winners' Cup semi-final, first leg against Real Mallorca on Thursday.

While the central pair did their part, it was right-back Albert Ferrer who helped set up the 11th-minute goal with a cross into the area that the Charlton goalkeeper, Sasa Ilic, failed to collect and defender Carl Tiler failed to head properly. Di Matteo met the loose ball with a downward volley that was enough to beat a stranded Ilic.

It is a lack of goals from his own side that most concerns Charlton's manager, Alan Curbishley, and he stated: "We've got to win games and to do that we've got to score goals."

And as if to highlight the ways things are going for Charlton, Curbishley noted: "Ilic makes a howler and they score; their goalkeeper [De Goey] makes a similar mistake and we fail to score. That's happened too many times." With just eight games to get 12 more points and reach the supposed safety mark of 40 points, the suspense for Curbishley's relegation-threatened side looks like lasting to the end of the season.

Goals: Di Matteo (11) 0-1. Charlton (3-4-3): Ilic; Ruffs, Tiler; Brown, Kinsella, Stuart, Powell (Jones, 80), Mills (Barnes, 54); Robinson, Mendonça (Hunt, 74). Prince Substitutes not used: Peterson (64), Bowen. Chelsea (4-4-2): De Goey (Hitchcock, 46); Desailly, Leboeuf, Le Saux, Ferrer, Wise; Morris (Poyet, 70), Goldobee, Di Matteo (Doberry, 86); Zola, Flo. Substitutes not used: Lambourne, Nicholls. Referee: R. Harris (Oxford). Bookings: Charlton: Stuart; Chelsea: Wise, Poyet. Man of the match: Desailly. Attendance: 20,046.

Leeds aim to make history

LEEDS UNITED are planning to celebrate their "glory years" on 18 April. By the time the guests turn up at Elland Road's banqueting suite, however, the Revie reunion dinner-dance could have one fewer glorious achievement to toast.

If David O'Leary's hungry young team polish off Liverpool on the Elland Road pitch a week today and do the same to Charlton at The Valley the following Saturday they will be undisputed holders of the record run of top-division victories in Leeds United's 80-year history.

In adding Nottingham Forest to their growing list of Premiership victims at Elland Road on Saturday, though not without difficulty, they equalled the seven-match winning sequence with which Revie's team launched their title-winning 1973-74 campaign.

Technically, however, stretching a pedantic point across a three-month summer

BY SIMON TURNBULL

Leeds United 3
Nottingham Forest 1

break, O'Leary's likely lads remain one step behind the Leeds greats of '73. Revie's side won their final First Division game the previous season, a 6-1 thrashing of Arsenal in the FA Cup final against Sunderland and in the Cup-Winners' Cup final against Milan.

O'Leary, for one, would not dispute the argument. "To be honest, the record means nothing to me," he said in the Elland Road press room on Saturday night. "I'm just delighted with the win and the three points."

"People are saying we're not in the same street yet as Don Revie's team. I'm simply flattered that comparisons are being made. If we can do half as well as Don Revie's team I'll be delighted."

One championship, one UEFA

Cup and a composite domestic cup (consisting of an FA Cup and a League Cup) would indeed bear more than adequate testimony to another sparklingly successful era at Elland Road. But the latter-day Leeds have won nothing yet and Saturday's evidence suggests O'Leary may not be falsely modest in maintaining that they are still not quite trophy-winning material.

Perhaps weighed down by the burden of expectation, they were lacking their customary verve - and the "three or four quality players" O'Leary insists he needs to turn his young pretenders into heavyweight challengers to Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea. They are a long way from affording such luxuries as Solskjaer, Kanu and Flo as bench men.

Forest were cut down by three sharp strikes - Jimmy Hasselbaink's 18-yard drive, Ian Harte's thumping free-kick and Alan Smith's close-range

hook shot - but otherwise Leeds were no more than persistent and a shade fortunate.

Indeed, Ron Atkinson's rock-bottom team deserved more than the small consolation of the game's best goal, Alan Rogers' left-footed thunderbolt. As the Forest manager put it, his players now need "to win every game and get a few snookers" to beat the looming drop.

They could certainly use some assistance from Steve Davis - the Leyton Orient director, that is, not the Burnley defender.

Goals: Hasselbaink (63) 1-0; Rogers (82) 1-1; Harte (89) 2-1; Smith (93) 3-1. Leeds United (4-3-1-2): Murray; Wetherill, Woodgate, Radford, Harte; Bowyer; Hopkin, Ribeiro, Newell (Jones, 69); Smith, Hasselbaink. Substitutes not used: Robinson (64), Whithard, Hale, Gravelle. Nottingham Forest (5-3-2): Crossley; Bonfield, Edwards, Gough, Christie, Stenson (Portillo, 81); Johnson, Palmer, Rogers; Harewood, Freedman (Shippey, 66). Substitutes not used: Beasant (64), Wilson, Alou. Referee: P. Atcock (Halsstead). Sending off: Forest: Palmer. Bookings: Forest: Gough, Bonfield, Palmer. Man of the match: Stenson. Attendance: 39,645.

DEEP IN the second half of an otherwise uneventful match, the Jack Walker Stand rose as one man and waved two fingers in the direction of Alan Wilkie.

It was a display of emotion out of kilter with a lifeless afternoon's football and it was almost a shame that the furious fans and the equally incensed Brian Kidd had to be told that the referee had not just booked Middlesbrough's Mark Summerbell for the second time.

The young midfielder, preferred in the starting line-up to the likes of Paul Gascoigne and Keith O'Neill, had been wrongly credited on the ground's electronic scoreboard with an earlier yellow card actually shown to Robbie Stockdale. "The fans were confused, but we never were," said Bryan Robson, Boro's manager. "We knew who had been booked."

With the possible exception of a late flourish from Gascoigne, it was the most exciting moment of the afternoon. With

BY DAVE HADFIELD

Blackburn Rovers 0
Middlesbrough 0

Premiership survival to play for, Rovers did not lack urgency, nor, with a 4-3-3 formation, were they short of potential goalscorers.

What they lacked was any accurate service, most of it merely giving Gary Pallister, back at the heart of the Boro defence, the sort of routine heading practice he hardly needs at this stage of his career. Pallister was also at the centre of Middlesbrough's unambitious game-plan.

Content for the most part to sit back and absorb Rovers' unfocused pressure - only one sharp effort from the highly promising Matt Jansen really troubled them - they might have wondered at the end whether a more expansive policy would have been rewarded. The away fans had already

made it clear that they would have welcomed the departure of Stockdale, Summerbell or anyone else, provided that the result had been the introduction of Gascoigne, whose heavy-duty warm-up exercises on the touchline had created more interest than most of the action on the pitch.

When he was allowed to join in, Gazza looked more than ever like the rich man's pub footballer, woefully lacking in match sharpness, but still with a talent lurking beneath the surface that most of the others involved could only dream about possessing.

Blackburn Rovers (4-3-3): Filly; McTear, Henchoz, Peacock, Davidson; Johnson (Gillespie, 60), Maxwell (Corsey, 60), Wilkie; Ward, Sutton, Jansen (Davies, 64). Substitutes not used: Flowers (64), Broome. Middlesbrough (4-4-2): Schwarzer; Stockdale, Cooper, Pallister, Gordon; Maddison (Gascoigne, 60), Summerbell, Dowie, Substitutes not used: Berozford (64), Moore, Kinder. Referee: A. Wilkie (Chester-le-Street). Bookings: Blackburn: Marcin, McTear, Boro: Stockdale, Summerbell, Gascoigne. Man of the match: Pallister. Attendance: 27,462.

Cambridge in cruise mode Slough slump to hosts' rout

ROWING

BY HUGH MATHESON

CAMBRIDGE EXTENDED their winning run in the Boat Race to even years by once again, for the third year in succession, producing the fastest crew ever. This is not hyperbole or even unexpected. Their finishing time of 16min 41sec broke the 1998 record and would have been faster than last year's crew, but for the fact that the tide which pushed them up from Putney to Mortlake was higher and there was no wind.

The Light Blue coaching team, which seems able to conceive everything else, has not yet blighted the moon or the breeze after its command. In other sports the achievements of the club are eclipsed by three good floors and one bad.

The club says it has made improvements in equipment like it easier for each generation to outstrip the past. Improvements in training and technique which are not the done, but lumped together for its argument, are always important. The third good is the selection of the available pool of athletes and their prior physical condition. But Cambridge's secret has been use and combination of the range and various styles and additions which have turned up the first day of training each year. The bad is, of course, official aids such as banned drugs, which are not part of this sporting tale.

There is a familiar complaint that the Boat Race is no longer between British-born undergraduates. That is because it has always been a private match between the two university clubs. The Boat Race has been now, as then, provide an accurate representation of the two places. There have been lots of Americans, Canadians, Germans, Norwegians, Swedes, Serbs and Croats in the last few years because that is reflection of the student body in these places. As the number of races mounts there is also a greater probability that all the foreign elements, tide, wind, a great crew and a tight race, will



Cambridge's Toby Wallace kisses Vian Sharif, the cox of the winning crew, before her traditional dunking after the Boat Race Robert Hallam

come together on the same day. When that happened last year the old records went by 30 seconds.

This crew was equally capable but no one, least of all their own camp, was convinced they could pull it off. They had gone truly fast in training, finishing two 1,000m rows at Ely in 2min 43secs while trying out the different gearing of the oar length beyond the fulcrum. Then in Nottingham the week before the race they had skinned a Nottingham crew which, although largely composed of lightweights, was hugely experienced. One minute 17 seconds for 500m is respectable speed for a 2,000m Olympic crew and is not expected days before a four-and-a-half mile race.

When Cambridge won the toss they chose the Surrey side of the course because they hoped they could get the best of the stream in the first couple of minutes and because they knew they had the speed to get to the first bend without suffering a disadvantage. Afterwards their coach, Robin Williams, said: "I never thought we could take the Fulham bend as well as we did. I could not allow myself the luxury of a smile but I felt we could win from there." Oxford, meanwhile, had looked so secure and confident in training that you could be convinced they would settle into a solid rhythm and bide their time while Cambridge threw in their early fireworks, before moving to the front. But shortly after the bend had turned in their favour it was difficult to spot the moment when they tried the move. Already they were lacking dash and verve.

It was Tim Wooge - who in training had been slowest to assimilate the Cambridge rhythm and, for some, the surprise choice for the key stroke seat - who looked the sharper and Oxford's Colin von Ettingshausen, the world champion and Olympic silver medalist, who looked like he was pulling a block of lead. At Hammer-smith the gap was still negligible for men of this character and discipline but with 40 clinical strokes Cambridge put the knife in, sweeping clear and leaving Oxford to find their way home, wallowing in their wake for the next three miles.

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL
in 's-Hertogenbosch

Slough, looking to reach a third final in the past four years, yesterday suffered their worst European Club Championship defeat when they were hammered 8-3 by the host club, Den Bosch, in their last pool game.

Today they will play Edinburgh Ladies for the bronze medal. The Scots, thanks to goals from Val Neil and Alison Grant, scored a surprise 2-1 win against Rot Weiss Cologne.

Slough never recovered after conceding a goal in the eighth minute to the Argentinian centre-forward Vanina Oneto, the first of her three goals. The Dutch quickly moved into a three-goal lead before Jane Smith pulled one back for Slough, who trailed 6-1 at half-time. Smith scored a second and Sarah Kelleher a third for the English champions but by now the Dutch had taken their total to eight.

Beeston, with goals from Scott Cordon and James Edington, drew 2-2 with Lille in Amstelveen in the men's club championship and, like Slough,

BASKETBALL

BY RICHARD TAYLOR

84-77 in the League a month ago. Giants have to lift themselves after the defeat against Sheffield, but must first decide whether to appeal against the two-game ban on coach Nick Nurse, which could keep him out of the quarter-final series with Birmingham Bullets.

Bullets, last season's play-off champions, were the victims of Saturday's surprise result when Leicester City Riders won 87-85 at Derby Storm. Four late points from Leicester's Gene Waldron forced a three-way tie which resulted in Newcastle Eagles finishing fifth. Derby sixth and Bullets seventh.

Quarter-finals: Sheffield v Greater London, Manchester v Birmingham, Thames Valley v Derby, London v Newcastle.

Form with Mims as Sheffield block way

BILLY MIMS intends upsetting the Sheffield Sharks in the Budweiser Championship play-off quarter-finals, one year after his own Greater London Leopards were knocked off the road to Wembley at the first hurdle.

Sharks, who won the League with a dramatic 87-85 win over Manchester Giants on Friday, meet eighth-placed Leopards in the best-of-three series, with the winners playing at Wembley on the first weekend of May.

"Last season we were the League champions but lost in the quarter-finals to Manchester. Giants did it to us then, now we are going to have to do the same to Sheffield," Mims said.

Although Leopards lost their first two League meetings against Sheffield and were beaten 67-65 in the Cup final in January, they beat the Sharks



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BOOK
OF THE
WEEK

Godforsaken Sea
by Derek Lundy
Yellow Jersey, £15.99
hardback

QUITE HOW James Bond would wriggle out of the kind of life-threatening situations which afflict single-handed ocean

racers only M can say. Doubtless, if not rescuing someone himself, he would be rescued by a beautiful woman, the yacht would develop either wings and fly away, or fins and dive to underwater serenity.

Reality is rather different. The desolation of the more remote areas of the planet have been vaguely understood for a long time because of the pioneering voyages made by the explorers and the iron men who opened up global trade in clipper ships.

More recently, satellite communications and television have brought detailed descriptions and pictures of what ferocious nature at its most malevolent can throw at those who dare to challenge its power deep in the great oceans of the world.

Derek Lundy, a self-confessed seeker after calmer waters when sailing himself, has gathered together a definitive account of the 1996 Vendée Globe, a singlehanded, non-stop round the world race which burst on to television screens everywhere with dramatic pictures of the Australian Navy and Air Force combining to contrive the double rescue of Britain's Tony Bullimore and Frenchman Thierry Dubois from their upturned yachts deep in the icy southern ocean.

And he recounts the way in which another Briton, Pete Goss, turned back into the teeth of a hurricane to pluck from a drifting liferaft another Frenchman, Raphael Dinelli. These are well-documented, but Lundy goes further. He shepherds the reader through the history of singlehanded sailing, explains the way of the sea, considers the design of these strange racing craft, and introduces each of the principal characters on this most dangerous and lonely of racing stages. While his descriptions of mountainous waves and howling winds are coldly respectful, his obvious affection for the men and women who risk their lives in what is an obsessive sport produces a series of warm biographies which are both informative and alluring. Non-fiction it may be, but it contains all the tension of a thriller.

Not that that is enough to fire the kind of madness that says, "I want to do that, too." Not even Mr Lundy claims that.

STUART ALEXANDER

TOP TEN BOOKS

- 1 *Hillsborough - The Truth* Phil Scruton (Mainstream, paperback, £3.99)
- 2 *Wilden Cricketers* Alan Jackson 1999, edited by Matthew Engel (John Wisden, hardback, £28.00)
- 3 *Playfair Cricket Annual 1999* edited by Bill Frindall (Headline, paperback, £4.99)
- 4 *Almanacco Illustrato Del Calcio '99* edited by Arrigo Saraceni (Panini, Italy, hardback, £15.95)
- 5 *The Cricketers' Who's Who 1999* edited by Chris Marshall (Queen Anne Press, paperback, £17.99)
- 6 *500 Years of English Cricket* (Oxford, paperback, £14.99)
- 7 *Test and Ticker* Eddy Burrows (Headline, paperback, £5.99)
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Westwood changes style with a major breakthrough in mind

The Briton with a fresh approach to the 1999 Masters has cast off doubts about his chances to win the title.

By Andy Farrell

EVERY WEEK on the golf tours, the world's best players are offered a free courtesy car, as much food in the locker-room as they wish to consume without messing up the fitness regime, courses often set up to offer the option for attacking, dramatic performances, extensive television coverage to please their sponsors and huge financial rewards with cheques bearing six or even seven-figure sums. For convenience, the records are kept on computer database for swift revision. Only four weeks of the year, however, do the history books get rewritten.

For all the marketing and hype of the past three months, the first golf of 1999 that actually matters - the first major championship - starts on Thursday with the 83rd playing of the Masters Tournament at Augusta National.

What is a major? In 1930, Bobby Jones, the founder of the club that hosts the championship, won both Opens and Amateur titles in America and Britain, the so-called Impregnable Quadrilateral. When professional golf had taken hold in the 1960s, it was Arnold Palmer who first talked about winning the Grand Slam of majors: the Masters, the US and British Opens and the USPGA.

The recent Players' Championship was a mighty tournament, won impressively by David Duval. It could be described as a combination of all four majors: it had the hard and fast greens of the Masters, the five-inch rough of the US Open, breezes straight from the British Open and the strength of field usually only achieved by the USPGA. And yet the event will always have to bear Sandy Lyle's put-down when he won the Players' in 1987 and was asked how it differed from the Open: "About 115 years of history," he replied.

Duval and Lee Westwood have become the dominant winners of tour golf. In the past 18 months, both have won 10 times. Westwood has done so on five tours and four continents, while Duval has captured all the main titles on the US tour: the season-opening Tournament of Champions, the World Series, for winners from all around the globe, the season-ending Tour Championship, and now the Players'.

What both now crave is a major title. Duval has played in 17 majors, missed three cuts and had two top-10 finishes. Just once has he been in contention, playing with one with three to play at last year's Masters before Mark O'Meara birdied three of the last four holes to win his first major at the age of 41. Westwood has played in 10 majors, missed two cuts and also had two top-10 finishes.

This will only be the third season in which 25-year-old from Worsnop has been eligible for all four majors. "I think that's why I haven't done so well in the majors," he said, "because I haven't had the experience of them." There is another factor: "I've probably taken the wrong attitude into them. I didn't see myself as a serious contender for them. I went in with the attitude that a top-10 finish would be good."

"Even last year, when I was going into them as the bookie's favourite, in my own mind I was only going into them to play well and see how high I could get. Instead of seeing if I could win, like I do at other tournaments. It's just a mental attitude. I probably gave others too much respect, really. Now, I feel I am ready to compete."

Many of Westwood's finest displays have been achieved by battling



Lee Westwood: 'I want to play well in the majors, because that's the way great players are measured'

Peter Andrews/Reuters

through difficult conditions, working his way up the leaderboard by playing par golf while others are going backwards. That was the case at the US Open last year, where he achieved his best finish of seventh in a major, and at the Players' Championship in the past two years.

Often he has had to scramble back from a poor start. In all the eight majors over the past two years, Westwood has been over par in the first round. His best fightback came on his debut at Augusta two

years ago, when after an opening 77, he shot a 70 on the last day in the company of Jack Nicklaus to earn a top-24 finish and a return trip.

Last year he fell to 44th, having had a hectic week. The attention was on him for the first time in the States as he had just won the New Orleans Classic. He would also win the Loch Lomond Invitational just before the Open and finished well down the pack at Royal Birkdale.

Preparation for a major is key and it is no coincidence that Nicklaus and

Nick Faldo have got it right more often than not. This year Westwood is adopting a more low-profile build up. After practicing at Sawgrass last Monday he met up with his new wife Lauree in the Bahamas. On the agenda were a couple of rounds of golf but otherwise switching off.

Yesterday he arrived in Augusta but will play no more than a couple of practice rounds. "In the past I have overdone the practice before a major, working far harder than at a regular tournament," he said.

All Westwood's arrangements are decided by his manager, Andrew "Chubby" Chandler, who described himself as the "chairman of the board". Input on the "board" comes from the player himself, his coach, Pete Cowen, and his father, a retired maths teacher.

It was decided Cowen, who also works Chandler's other clients such as Darren Clarke, Andrew Coltart and David Howell, should give more instruction at home and not travel to so many tournaments. The idea

LEE WESTWOOD AND DAVID DUVAL: TWO SUCCESS STORIES



In the past 18 months, Lee Westwood (left) and David Duval have become the dominant winners in golf with a combined tally of 20 victories in their careers. Duval has won 10 times in America, while Westwood has 13 victories on five tours around the world.

- August 1996**
Westwood: Scandinavian Masters
November 1996
Westwood: Taiheyo Masters (Japan)
February 1997
Westwood: Malaysian Open
October 1997
Duval: Michelob Championship
Disney/Oldsmobile Classic
November 1997
Duval: US Tour Championship
Westwood: Volvo Masters (Sp), Taiheyo Masters, Australian Open
February 1998
Duval: Tucson Open
April 1998
Westwood: Freeport McDermott Classic (US)
May 1998
Duval: Houston Open
June 1998
Westwood: Deutsche Bank Open, English Open
July 1998
Westwood: Loch Lomond Invitational
August 1998
Duval: World Series
October 1998
Westwood: Belgacom Open
Duval: Michelob Championship
November 1998
Westwood: Taiheyo Masters, Dunlop Phoenix Tournament (Japan)
January 1999
Duval: Mercedes Championship, Bob Hope Classic
March 1999
Duval: The Players' Championship

was to reduce the number of technical ideas circulating in the players' minds during an event. But when Westwood was struggling prior to the Players' Championship, Butch Harmon, Tiger Woods' coach, was prevailed upon to help, and it seemed to work.

One aspect Westwood has been persuaded to drop is his attempts to draw the ball as folklore demands at Augusta. But Nicklaus, Ben Hogan, Faldo, Fred Couples and Woods are all Masters champions who fade the ball. "The perception of Augusta as a hooker's paradise is wrong," said Johnny Miller, the former US and British Open champion.

"A slight hook with the tee shot may be a plus but it isn't as big a factor as it used to be because of the distance these guys hit the ball. A monster fade that goes 300 yards won't hurt you and is even an advantage on clutch holes like 18."

"The real keys to playing well at Augusta are the approach shots to those firm, tricky greens. You need to hit the ball high so it lands like a sack of sand. A high fade works much better than a draw."

Duval, who as the new world No. 1, enters the Masters as a surprise favourite over Woods, also hits the ball left-to-right. Westwood is glad to be away from the hype. But after describing the Open last year as "just another tournament" and entering the USPGA having barely touched a club for two weeks, Westwood has re-evaluated the significance of the majors.

"I want to play well in the majors, because when I sit down in 40 years' time, that is the way great players are measured. People talk of Faldo and you only hear of his six majors. Maybe, I could win them all. It's possible, I think I've got the kind of game that's right for all of them. I would say the US Open particularly suits me and, certainly the British Open is the one I'd like to win most, but I have the game to win all of them."

THE WEEK AHEAD: MAIN EVENTS

TOMORROW

Football: Big night at home and abroad with the first legs of the UEFA Cup semi-finals and two important Premiership matches. Atletico Madrid entertain Lazio while Italy's other representative, Bologna, visit Marseille. Don't rule out an all-Italian final. Title-chasing Arsenal have a chance to make ground on Manchester United when they play hosts to Blackburn, who are still floating at the shark-infested end of the table. In the Midlands, Leicester City play Aston Villa in a match of the night-haves. (Might have won the Worthington Cup; might have sustained a challenge for the title).

WEDNESDAY

Football: European Cup semi-finals. It doesn't get any better than this, with Manchester facing old enemies Juventus and quietly-fancied Dynamo Kiev take on Bayern Munich. United owe their legacy of never having beaten an Italian club over two legs in the last round and should now have the confidence to go for a convincing win against a Juventus team which does not look as formidable

as Internazionale. Alex Ferguson will never have a better chance of emulating Sir Matt Busby's triumph of 1968.

THURSDAY

Golf: The year's first major tournament, the US Masters, tees off at Augusta National with Americans David Duval and Tiger Woods among the favourites. The British challenge is headed by Lee Westwood.

SATURDAY

Rugby: The Grand National at Aintree. Still the greatest racing spectacle in the world even though the authorities have succumbed to pressure and made the fences too soft in recent years. This year's field looks sub-standard but the days of 100-1 winners has gone. In recent years the winner has regularly come from among the fancied runners. Stand by for Jenny Pitman's last-ever National runner and, presumably, her last-ever tearful interview with Des. **Rugby Union:** The Five Nations resumes in Paris where France play Scotland at the Stade de France. The Scots have surpassed all expectations

this season but the French, smarting from successive defeats by Wales and England, should be too good for them.

SUNDAY

Football: The FA Cup semi-finals. Arsenal will be hoping that Manchester United's midweek exertions against Juventus will have taken their toll. Newcastle United take on Tottenham in the other tie. The long-suffering Tottenham Army certainly deserves a change of fortune and, if Newcastle win, a better performance than the one they dished up in last year's final. **Rugby Union:** England, chasing the Grand Slam, play Wales at Wembley but this will be no walkover. The Welsh have shown intermittent signs of a revival this season and have certainly played with more flair than the lumbering English who have gained their deserved victories through sheer power. **Motor racing:** The Brazilian Grand Prix from São Paulo. Can McLaren recover from the hiccups of Melbourne? Will Schumacher finish? Can Eddie Irvine win again? A fascinating race, in prospect.

THE WEEK AHEAD: SPORT ON TELEVISION

TODAY

12.00-12.30 BBC2 Grandstand includes the British Touring Car Championship, British Superbike Championship and the World Short Course Speedway Championship.
14.30-15.30 CB Badminton Paragon Park, Newcastle and the Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse.
16.00-16.30 BBC2 The Magic of the Masters. Alan Hansen looks at the history of the Masters, which goes back to 1934.
22.30-00.00 BBC1 Blanks of the Day.
01.00-04.00 CB Live and Dangerous includes Ice Hockey - 40 Devils v NY Rangers.
Satellite
12.00-14.30 Sky Sports 2 Live Football Hull v Sheffield.
12.30-14.30 Sky Sports 1 Live Rugby League Hull v Sheffield.
14.00-17.00, 19.00-22.00 Sky Sports 3 Live Soccer First day of the British Open.
14.30-16.00 ITV Live Chess. League Legends from the League Country Tour.
15.00-18.30, 19.00-21.00 Eurosport Live Football First-round action from the World Youth Championship in Nigeria.
17.00-17.30, 17.30-22.00 Sky Sports 2 Live Cricket West Indies v Australia.
18.00-22.15 Sky Sports 1 Live Football Newcastle v Tottenham.

TOMORROW

14.10-14.45 BBC2 Sporting Greats. Sebastian Coe. A look at last year's Masters final, when Stephen Hendry was beaten by Mark Williams.
22.30-00.00 ITV Live Chess. League Legends from the League Country Tour.
00.30-04.00 CB Live and Dangerous includes Ice Hockey - 40 Devils v NY Rangers.
Satellite
14.00-16.30 Eurosport Live Cycling The Ghent-Wevelgem race in Belgium.
15.30-18.30 Eurosport Football From Nigeria.
18.30-20.30 Eurosport Live Cycling Round-robin game - Canada v Denmark - from the World Championships in Saint-John, Canada.
14.00-17.00, 19.00-22.00 Sky Sports 3 Live Soccer More from the British Open.

WEDNESDAY

10.00-12.00 ITV Film: Sean Connery A Man of Iron.
12.00-13.30 BBC2 Badminton Paragon Park, Newcastle and the Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse.
14.30-15.30 CB Badminton Paragon Park, Newcastle and the Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse.
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FRIDAY

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CHRIS MAUM

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nal All Black pedigree prevails

IT WAS a feat in itself that Wales should defy the seedings to reach the final of this 31st FIRA Junior World Championships. But when it came to the crunch it was New Zealand who displayed the pedigree necessary to carry off the title.

While it was their first venture into the under-19 event, they played like seasoned campaigners in brushing Wales aside in front of more than 12,000 people at Stradey Park. They won by four tries, a penalty and a conversion to nil and could have improved that margin had Wales not shown the spirit that saw them beat England, Argentina and South Africa on the way to the final.

The recent improvement in Welsh rugby has come at senior level since the arrival of the new coach Graham Henry. But, ironically, it was one of former coach Kevin Bowring's right hand men who has been responsible for the success of this Wales side.

John Bevan, the former Wales and Lions wing, has been in charge over the past 10 days and he can be proud of what this side has achieved, despite failing at the final hurdle.

New Zealand were simply too streetwise and clinical in their execution of the possession they earned at forward. And when it came to scoring tries and turning that possession into points they were well accomplished too. It took them just 10 minutes to expose a stretched Welsh defence. Gerard Fasaualu escaping the cover to add to the brace of tries he scored in the semi-final victory over Ireland.

RUGBY UNION

By ROB COLE
at Stradey Park

Wales Under-19 0
New Zealand Under-19 25

Wales were hindered by the conditions and though they tried to take the game wide, the slippery ball prevented them from making any headway. A mistake in midfield from full-back Rhys Williams enabled New Zealand to claim possession and Fasaualu was away and celebrating his second try.

It was not until nine minutes into the second half that New Zealand increased that advantage, but when right-wing Junior Muliaina won the race for the line, the junior All Blacks were comfortably in front and on their way to the trophy.

Their fourth and final try came from flanker Richard McGaw after concerted work from his pack and a conversion of that score and a penalty from stand-off Riki Flutey completed the scoring on a disappointing afternoon for the Welsh.

This may have been the first time New Zealand had entered the competition, but they will be back next year and on the evidence of this match to take some beating.

New Zealand: Tries Fasaualu 2, Muliaina, McGaw, Conversion Flutey, Penalty Flutey. Wales: 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.



Japan's Tanaka Masami earns her third gold medal of the week by winning the 100m breaststroke final in Hong Kong yesterday

Foster earns a second gold

By DERRICK WHYTE
in Hong Kong

MARK FOSTER struck gold for Britain in the men's 50 metres butterfly on the final day of the World Short Course Championships here. Foster won yesterday in 23.61 seconds, ahead of China's Zhang Qiang in 23.87 and Joris Kelder of the Netherlands in 23.96. The Brit had clocked 24.02 to finish third in his semi-final, behind Kelder and Sweden's Dan Linsford. He had also won the 50m freestyle gold.

Earlier, James Hickman and Helen Don-Duncan had won silver medals for Britain. Hickman clocked 1min 56.51sec in the 200m medley final, behind Australia's Matthew Dunn, who won in 1:55.81. Hickman led until the breaststroke leg of the medley but slowed in the latter stages of the race, enabling Dunn to take gold.

Don-Duncan took the silver in the 200m backstroke in a time of 2:06.18 with Mai Nakamura of Japan winning in 2:06.49 to add to her 100m backstroke gold.

Of the remaining Britons featuring in the finals, Karen Pickering finished fifth in the women's 200m freestyle in 1:57.95 behind Martina Moravcova. Sue Rolph finished last in the women's 200m medley final in 2:16.32. Slovakia's Martina Moravcova winning in 2:08.55, while in the men's 100m backstroke, British pair Neil Willey and Martin Harris finished sixth and eighth respectively in 53.55 and 54.57.

Australia and Japan dominated the four-day championships, chalking up another world record apiece on the last day. The Australian men's 4x100m medley relay team set a pounding pace and fended off a fierce late challenge from Sweden to clock a world record in 3:29.38. They broke Australia's own world record of 3:30.66 set in April 1997.

Australia had a commanding nine gold medals, also nailing down 11 silvers and seven bronzes as well as three of eight world records. The Australian record in the final event came just after the Japanese women's team had set a world record in the 4x100m medley relay with 3:57.62, beating the previous best of 3:57.73 set by China in December 1993.

Japan brought only five swimmers but boasted second place in the medals table with six gold, two silver and one bronze.

Yesterday's world records capped a day of fierce competition in individual events as the swimmers moved into top gear for next year's Olympics.

Kucera kills off holders Sweden

TENNIS
By KIERAN DALEY

KAROL KUCERA led Slovakia to a surprise victory over the reigning champions Sweden in their Davis Cup world group first round tie with a four-set victory over Thomas Enqvist yesterday.

The Slovak No 1, playing his third match of the weekend in Trollhattan, Sweden beat the top Swede 1-6, 6-3, 6-2 to give the Slovaks an unbeatable 3-1 lead and hand the home nation their first Davis Cup defeat since the 1996 final. Sweden's Thomas Johansson closed out the tie with a 6-4, 6-4 defeat of Dominik Hrbaty in a meaningless rubber.

"I had my chances, but every time I did something good he would come up with something even better," Enqvist said after the defeat. The win was revenge for last year when Sweden knocked out the Slovaks on their home court in the first round on the way to winning their second consecutive title.

Gustavo Kuerten's 6-2, 6-4, 6-1 demolition of the Spanish No 1 Carlos Moya set Brazil on their way to a 2-2 first-round victory at Lleida in Spain. Kuerten, who had put his side in command of the tie with a match-winning role in Saturday's doubles, turned in another virtuoso display to give Brazil an unbeatable 3-1 lead.

The French No 1 Cedric Pioline beat Richard Krajacek to stay unbeaten in three matches as France sank the Netherlands in their world group tie in Nimes. Pioline, who spent nearly five hours on the court along with compatriot Guillaume Raoux on Saturday, teamed Krajacek the world No 4, 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 to give France a 2-1 lead.

Barrera shows his world-class credentials

By GLEN LEACH

more impressive for Lloyd's status as British, Commonwealth and European heavyweight champion. But Lloyd was never expected to win. He was fighting out of his natural weight division.

Still Barrera, the 35-year-old former law student from Mexico City, confirmed at the week-

end that he is one of the very best fighters in the world, and that his rehabilitation is complete after a traumatic five-month period two years ago. Barrera was unbeaten in 43 fights when he fought against the talented Junior Jones in Tampa, Barrera was the natural opponent for Naseem Hamed, the WBO featherweight champion who watched from ringside. They acknowledged each other respectfully before the fight.

but under three Hamed was asking: "Is he having a bad night or what?" Jones, whom Hamed had visited in his dressing-room, was debunking the myth of "The Next Great Mexican". And in round five the New Yorker proved his point.

The beaten fighter, then only 23, was bereft at the post-fight conference - no one in America wants to talk to a loser, let alone one who needs an interpreter. Hamed, his former meal ticket,

SPORTING DIGEST

ATLETICS
PARIS MARATHON: Men: 1. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 28min 10sec; 2. P. Kipsono (Kenya) 2hr 29min 30sec; 3. M. Kibet (Kenya) 2hr 30min 10sec; 4. F. Kiprop (Kenya) 2hr 31min 10sec; 5. E. Akai (Kenya) 2hr 32min 10sec; 6. C. Costello (Kenya) 2hr 33min 10sec; 7. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 34min 10sec; 8. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 35min 10sec; 9. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 36min 10sec; 10. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 37min 10sec; 11. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 38min 10sec; 12. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 39min 10sec; 13. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 40min 10sec; 14. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 41min 10sec; 15. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 42min 10sec; 16. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 43min 10sec; 17. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 44min 10sec; 18. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 45min 10sec; 19. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 46min 10sec; 20. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 47min 10sec; 21. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 48min 10sec; 22. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 49min 10sec; 23. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 50min 10sec; 24. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 51min 10sec; 25. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 52min 10sec; 26. J. Ruto (Kenya) 2hr 53min 10sec; 27. J. 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14/RACING

CARLISLE

HYPERION

2.15 Ackzo 2.45 Mademist Sam 3.15 Impertio 3.45 Minella Gold 4.15 Executive Design 4.45 Carrick Troop 5.15 Just Tom

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places).
Right-hand, undulating course.
Course is on southern outskirts of town, 4m W of junction 42 of M6. Bus service from Carlisle station 2m. **ADMISSION:** Club £24 (C&P & under-21s £11). **Tattersalls** £7 (C&P & under-21s £4). **CAR PARK:** On site, 350 spaces. **LEADING TRAINERS:** Mr M. Reaveley 36-14 (31%), L. Lange 22-12 (28%), Mrs S. Smith 13-14 (33%), C. Parker 11-10 (30%), **LEADING JOCKEYS:** A. Dobbin 30-14 (30%), P. Niven 29-10 (27%), B. Storey 16-10 (26%), P. Canny 14-9 (26%).
FAVOURITES: 100-363 (41%).
TONGUE STRAP: Carrick Troop (245), Alderbrook (215), Pebble Beach (245), County Sound (245), Pebble Beach (245), Zennan (245).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

2.15 CARLISLE RACE CLUB NOVICE HURDLE (E) £3,000

2m 4f 110yds
1. 3222 ACZOU (44) (2) P. Murphy 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
2. 1041 ANSUA (55A) (2) (2) P. Murphy 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
3. 33 ARSAL (11) (2) V. Lange 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
4. 33-34 CHOICE CUT (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
5. 33-35 FANON DE NOUVEAU (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
6. 33-36 HIGH INTROSPE (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
7. 00 LAMBORN PRINCE (2) (2) M. S. Williams 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
8. 00 LUCK IN RHYTHM (2) (2) R. N. B. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
9. 00 MAUDIE (44) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
10. MR PENNELL (2) (2) P. Beaman 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
11. 00 MIP (44) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
12. 00 NORTHERN GENERAL (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
13. 00 PRIME STYLE (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
14. 00 RIVER DOUGLAS (44) (2) M. S. Williams 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
15. 00 STONEMILL (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
16. 00 HUGO DE GREZ (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
17. 00-10 BLACK ROCK (44) (2) E. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
18. 00-14 SOLWAY ROSE (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
BETTING: 11-10 Aczou, 5-1 Northern General, 4-1 Choice Cut, 10-1 Arsal, High Introspe, River Douglas, 12-1 Stonemill, Hugs de Grez, 15-1 Maudie, 16-1 Prime Style, 17-1 Black Rock, 18-1 Solway Rose.

NORTHERN GENERAL, trained by Malcolm Jefferson, hasn't run since finishing third to the all-conquering Barrow at Wetherby in the autumn, but should go well in the 2m4f novice hurdle.

2.45 KIRKANDREW NOVICE HURDLE (F) £4,000

2m 4f 110yds
1. 3222 ACZOU (44) (2) P. Murphy 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
2. 1041 ANSUA (55A) (2) (2) P. Murphy 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
3. 33 ARSAL (11) (2) V. Lange 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
4. 33-34 CHOICE CUT (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
5. 33-35 FANON DE NOUVEAU (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
6. 33-36 HIGH INTROSPE (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
7. 00 LAMBORN PRINCE (2) (2) M. S. Williams 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
8. 00 LUCK IN RHYTHM (2) (2) R. N. B. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
9. 00 MAUDIE (44) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
10. MR PENNELL (2) (2) P. Beaman 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
11. 00 MIP (44) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
12. 00 NORTHERN GENERAL (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
13. 00 PRIME STYLE (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
14. 00 RIVER DOUGLAS (44) (2) M. S. Williams 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
15. 00 STONEMILL (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
16. 00 HUGO DE GREZ (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
17. 00-10 BLACK ROCK (44) (2) E. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
18. 00-14 SOLWAY ROSE (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
BETTING: 11-10 Aczou, 5-1 Northern General, 4-1 Choice Cut, 10-1 Arsal, High Introspe, River Douglas, 12-1 Stonemill, Hugs de Grez, 15-1 Maudie, 16-1 Prime Style, 17-1 Black Rock, 18-1 Solway Rose.

Although Dragons Bay has sound claims in the novice handicap chase, a rise of 12lb for his last win is a bit high, so it could be worth taking a chance on FAN DESTROYAL, who ran better than his finishing position suggests on his chasing debut at Carlisle last month.

3.15 MICHAEL DE GARA 50TH BIRTHDAY 'NH' NOV HDLE (E) £3,000 2m 1f

1. 3222 ACZOU (44) (2) P. Murphy 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
2. 1041 ANSUA (55A) (2) (2) P. Murphy 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
3. 33 ARSAL (11) (2) V. Lange 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
4. 33-34 CHOICE CUT (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
5. 33-35 FANON DE NOUVEAU (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
6. 33-36 HIGH INTROSPE (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
7. 00 LAMBORN PRINCE (2) (2) M. S. Williams 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
8. 00 LUCK IN RHYTHM (2) (2) R. N. B. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
9. 00 MAUDIE (44) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
10. MR PENNELL (2) (2) P. Beaman 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
11. 00 MIP (44) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
12. 00 NORTHERN GENERAL (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
13. 00 PRIME STYLE (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
14. 00 RIVER DOUGLAS (44) (2) M. S. Williams 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
15. 00 STONEMILL (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
16. 00 HUGO DE GREZ (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
17. 00-10 BLACK ROCK (44) (2) E. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
18. 00-14 SOLWAY ROSE (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
BETTING: 11-10 Aczou, 5-1 Northern General, 4-1 Choice Cut, 10-1 Arsal, High Introspe, River Douglas, 12-1 Stonemill, Hugs de Grez, 15-1 Maudie, 16-1 Prime Style, 17-1 Black Rock, 18-1 Solway Rose.

MINELLA GOLD, from the Lan Lingo stable, is an interesting contender. Formerly a very useful chaser, he is not as good these days, and on his latest start was only third today in a handicap chase at Naas. However, he has first run for Lingo today, and the change in scenery could be the key, and a good run is expected.

4.15 BORDER TELEVISION HURDLE (D) £3,500

2m 4f 110yds
1. 3222 ACZOU (44) (2) P. Murphy 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
2. 1041 ANSUA (55A) (2) (2) P. Murphy 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
3. 33 ARSAL (11) (2) V. Lange 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
4. 33-34 CHOICE CUT (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
5. 33-35 FANON DE NOUVEAU (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
6. 33-36 HIGH INTROSPE (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
7. 00 LAMBORN PRINCE (2) (2) M. S. Williams 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
8. 00 LUCK IN RHYTHM (2) (2) R. N. B. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
9. 00 MAUDIE (44) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
10. MR PENNELL (2) (2) P. Beaman 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
11. 00 MIP (44) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
12. 00 NORTHERN GENERAL (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
13. 00 PRIME STYLE (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
14. 00 RIVER DOUGLAS (44) (2) M. S. Williams 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
15. 00 STONEMILL (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
16. 00 HUGO DE GREZ (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
17. 00-10 BLACK ROCK (44) (2) E. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
18. 00-14 SOLWAY ROSE (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
BETTING: 11-10 Aczou, 5-1 Northern General, 4-1 Choice Cut, 10-1 Arsal, High Introspe, River Douglas, 12-1 Stonemill, Hugs de Grez, 15-1 Maudie, 16-1 Prime Style, 17-1 Black Rock, 18-1 Solway Rose.

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4.45 JOHN MCKIE MAIDEN HUNTERS CHASE (H) £1,500

2m 4f 110yds
1. 3222 ACZOU (44) (2) P. Murphy 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
2. 1041 ANSUA (55A) (2) (2) P. Murphy 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
3. 33 ARSAL (11) (2) V. Lange 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
4. 33-34 CHOICE CUT (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
5. 33-35 FANON DE NOUVEAU (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
6. 33-36 HIGH INTROSPE (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
7. 00 LAMBORN PRINCE (2) (2) M. S. Williams 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
8. 00 LUCK IN RHYTHM (2) (2) R. N. B. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
9. 00 MAUDIE (44) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
10. MR PENNELL (2) (2) P. Beaman 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
11. 00 MIP (44) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
12. 00 NORTHERN GENERAL (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
13. 00 PRIME STYLE (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
14. 00 RIVER DOUGLAS (44) (2) M. S. Williams 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
15. 00 STONEMILL (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
16. 00 HUGO DE GREZ (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
17. 00-10 BLACK ROCK (44) (2) E. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
18. 00-14 SOLWAY ROSE (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
BETTING: 11-10 Aczou, 5-1 Northern General, 4-1 Choice Cut, 10-1 Arsal, High Introspe, River Douglas, 12-1 Stonemill, Hugs de Grez, 15-1 Maudie, 16-1 Prime Style, 17-1 Black Rock, 18-1 Solway Rose.

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5.15 BOWNESS NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (H) £1,750

2m 4f 110yds
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2. 1041 ANSUA (55A) (2) (2) P. Murphy 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
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10. MR PENNELL (2) (2) P. Beaman 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
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CHEPSTOW

HYPERION

2.00 Jolliver 2.30 Norskil Lad 3.00 In The Blood 3.30 Zafarabad 4.00 Monicassan 4.30 Rash Remark 5.00 Handy Lass

GOING: Good to Soft.
Left-hand, undulating course with a one mile straight.
Course is on A466, Chepstow station (Cardiff - Gloucester) 1m. **ADMISSION:** Club £24 (C&P & under-21s £11). **Tattersalls** £7 (C&P & under-21s £4). **CAR PARK:** Free. **LEADING TRAINERS:** Mr P. M. 36-14 (31%), L. Lange 22-12 (28%), Mrs S. Smith 13-14 (33%), C. Parker 11-10 (30%), **LEADING JOCKEYS:** A. Dobbin 30-14 (30%), P. Niven 29-10 (27%), B. Storey 16-10 (26%), P. Canny 14-9 (26%).
FAVOURITES: 100-363 (41%).
TONGUE STRAP: Carrick Troop (245), Alderbrook (215), Pebble Beach (245), County Sound (245), Pebble Beach (245), Zennan (245).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

2.00 SPRINGTIME CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

1. 3222 ACZOU (44) (2) P. Murphy 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
2. 1041 ANSUA (55A) (2) (2) P. Murphy 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
3. 33 ARSAL (11) (2) V. Lange 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
4. 33-34 CHOICE CUT (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
5. 33-35 FANON DE NOUVEAU (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
6. 33-36 HIGH INTROSPE (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
7. 00 LAMBORN PRINCE (2) (2) M. S. Williams 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
8. 00 LUCK IN RHYTHM (2) (2) R. N. B. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
9. 00 MAUDIE (44) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
10. MR PENNELL (2) (2) P. Beaman 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
11. 00 MIP (44) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
12. 00 NORTHERN GENERAL (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
13. 00 PRIME STYLE (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
14. 00 RIVER DOUGLAS (44) (2) M. S. Williams 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
15. 00 STONEMILL (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
16. 00 HUGO DE GREZ (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
17. 00-10 BLACK ROCK (44) (2) E. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
18. 00-14 SOLWAY ROSE (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
BETTING: 11-10 Aczou, 5-1 Northern General, 4-1 Choice Cut, 10-1 Arsal, High Introspe, River Douglas, 12-1 Stonemill, Hugs de Grez, 15-1 Maudie, 16-1 Prime Style, 17-1 Black Rock, 18-1 Solway Rose.

NORTHERN GENERAL, trained by Malcolm Jefferson, hasn't run since finishing third to the all-conquering Barrow at Wetherby in the autumn, but should go well in the 2m4f novice hurdle.

2.30 CASTLE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV 1) £3,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

1. 3222 ACZOU (44) (2) P. Murphy 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
2. 1041 ANSUA (55A) (2) (2) P. Murphy 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
3. 33 ARSAL (11) (2) V. Lange 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
4. 33-34 CHOICE CUT (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
5. 33-35 FANON DE NOUVEAU (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
6. 33-36 HIGH INTROSPE (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
7. 00 LAMBORN PRINCE (2) (2) M. S. Williams 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
8. 00 LUCK IN RHYTHM (2) (2) R. N. B. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
9. 00 MAUDIE (44) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
10. MR PENNELL (2) (2) P. Beaman 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
11. 00 MIP (44) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
12. 00 NORTHERN GENERAL (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
13. 00 PRIME STYLE (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
14. 00 RIVER DOUGLAS (44) (2) M. S. Williams 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
15. 00 STONEMILL (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
16. 00 HUGO DE GREZ (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
17. 00-10 BLACK ROCK (44) (2) E. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
18. 00-14 SOLWAY ROSE (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
BETTING: 11-10 Aczou, 5-1 Northern General, 4-1 Choice Cut, 10-1 Arsal, High Introspe, River Douglas, 12-1 Stonemill, Hugs de Grez, 15-1 Maudie, 16-1 Prime Style, 17-1 Black Rock, 18-1 Solway Rose.

NORSKIL LAD stands out on his best form, a game Sandown win from Blue Royal when on Saturday. That hard race may have taken the edge off him when he disappointed some after at Cheltenham, but today's step up to two and a half miles will suit him, and he can bounce back with a win.

3.00 FULKE WALWYN HURDLE (CLASS C) £2,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

1. 3222 ACZOU (44) (2) P. Murphy 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
2. 1041 ANSUA (55A) (2) (2) P. Murphy 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
3. 33 ARSAL (11) (2) V. Lange 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
4. 33-34 CHOICE CUT (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
5. 33-35 FANON DE NOUVEAU (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
6. 33-36 HIGH INTROSPE (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
7. 00 LAMBORN PRINCE (2) (2) M. S. Williams 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
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12. 00 NORTHERN GENERAL (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
13. 00 PRIME STYLE (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
14. 00 RIVER DOUGLAS (44) (2) M. S. Williams 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
15. 00 STONEMILL (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
16. 00 HUGO DE GREZ (2) (2) C. Parker 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
17. 00-10 BLACK ROCK (44) (2) E. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
18. 00-14 SOLWAY ROSE (2) (2) J. T. 5.10. Mr J. P. McNamee (5)
BETTING: 11-10 Aczou, 5-1 Northern General, 4-1 Choice Cut, 10-1 Arsal, High Introspe, River Douglas, 12-1 Stonemill, Hugs de Grez, 15-1 Maudie, 16-1 Prime Style, 17-1 Black Rock, 18-

Soaring salaries pile on pressure

allegedly smashed a toilet to pieces after someone flushed it and made his shower go cold; he is a game winner; and the Dodgers look most likely to emerge as champions from the National League.

They will have a tougher time than the Yankees, though. The Atlanta Braves will dominate the NL East with Greg Maddux, probably the strongest pitcher in the game; the NL Central is a toss-up, but the Houston Astros seem most likely to come through.

The money race and the proliferation of talent are cre-

ating a two-tier game, as some teams like the Yankees outperform every week, while others at the bottom end of the table - short of cash, short of decent players and short of fans - stumble towards extinction or a move.

That is one reason why there is such consensus among most commentators about the end results for all but the American League West and the National League Central. Montreal's Expos, the worst off in the league financially, may well be on their way south to Washington, a city that has lacked its own team since 1971 when the Senators departed.

And the fans are paying for the higher salaries. Ticket prices have gone up 10 per cent at a time when US inflation is virtually non-existent, with

the cost of admittance to the field of dreams now nudging \$15 (for which you can, in a Washington bar, buy a pack of cigarettes, a beer and a hamburger with fries).

At Fenway park, the Red Sox are asking \$24. Though this is cheaper than tickets for American football, hockey or basketball, it is closing on them, which is bad news for a game that is self-consciously democratic. But while the balls are soaring into cloudless skies at St Louis and Chicago, few will complain.




SCOREBOARD

1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 26



Mark McGwire's home-run record can be surpassed. A




The opening game of the season was due to be played in Mexico last night, the first time it has been held outside the U.S. and Canada. The San Diego Padres were squaring up to the Colorado Rockies in Monterrey with the season beginning earnest today.

The expectations ahead of that first pitch are pretty high. The fans were treated to a magnificent spectacle in 1998, as McGwire and Sammy Sosa chased each other toward home through and then beyond the

home-run record. If the game was still under something of a cloud from the 1994 players' strike, then the Year of the B changed all that: it brought back the sense of wonder, history and personal achievement that is so vital for baseball to cast its magic on a national audience.

England before they enter the Sharjah event against India and Pakistan, the resurgence of the opening partnership between Stewart and Nick Knight was also a welcome tonic.

They refused to be deflected by Pakistan's slow over-rate and enjoyed a 161-run stand in 30 overs. Stewart hit 73 before holing out in the deep off Mush-taq, but Knight carried on to reach 92 off 94 deliveries, including a six and nine other boundaries.



McGwire: Highlight of '98

the cost of admittance to the field of dreams now nudging \$15 (for which you can, in a Washington bar, buy a pack of cigarettes, a beer and a hamburger with fries).

At Fenway park, the Red Sox are asking \$24. Though this is cheaper than tickets for American football, hockey or basketball, it is closing on them, which is bad news for a game that is self-consciously democratic. But while the balls are soaring into cloudless skies at St Louis and Chicago, few will complain.

WETHEBY

WETTERDRI

HYPERION

2.20 Moonshine Dancer 2.55 Keen To The Last 3.25 Samakasin 3.55 The Last Fling 4.30 Act In Time 5.05 Paisley Pandler

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places)
M Left-hand corner. Run of 300yds slightly ugly.
My Course is NE of town on B224 near junction of A58 and A1.
ADMISSION: Club £2 (accompanied under 16s free); "terrace" £10.50. 50c. 22.25p. 22.50p. 23.00p. 23.50p. 24.00p. 24.50p. 25.00p. 25.50p. 26.00p. 26.50p. 27.00p. 27.50p. 28.00p. 28.50p. 29.00p. 29.50p. 30.00p. 30.50p. 31.00p. 31.50p. 32.00p. 32.50p. 33.00p. 33.50p. 34.00p. 34.50p. 35.00p. 35.50p. 36.00p. 36.50p. 37.00p. 37.50p. 38.00p. 38.50p. 39.00p. 39.50p. 40.00p. 40.50p. 41.00p. 41.50p. 42.00p. 42.50p. 43.00p. 43.50p. 44.00p. 44.50p. 45.00p. 45.50p. 46.00p. 46.50p. 47.00p. 47.50p. 48.00p. 48.50p. 49.00p. 49.50p. 50.00p. 50.50p. 51.00p. 51.50p. 52.00p. 52.50p. 53.00p. 53.50p. 54.00p. 54.50p. 55.00p. 55.50p. 56.00p. 56.50p. 57.00p. 57.50p. 58.00p. 58.50p. 59.00p. 59.50p. 60.00p. 60.50p. 61.00p. 61.50p. 62.00p. 62.50p. 63.00p. 63.50p. 64.00p. 64.50p. 65.00p. 65.50p. 66.00p. 66.50p. 67.00p. 67.50p. 68.00p. 68.50p. 69.00p. 69.50p. 70.00p. 70.50p. 71.00p. 71.50p. 72.00p. 72.50p. 73.00p. 73.50p. 74.00p. 74.50p. 75.00p. 75.50p. 76.00p. 76.50p. 77.00p. 77.50p. 78.00p. 78.50p. 79.00p. 79.50p. 80.00p. 80.50p. 81.00p. 81.50p. 82.00p. 82.50p. 83.00p. 83.50p. 84.00p. 84.50p. 85.00p. 85.50p. 86.00p. 86.50p. 87.00p. 87.50p. 88.00p. 88.50p. 89.00p. 89.50p. 90.00p. 90.50p. 91.00p. 91.50p. 92.00p. 92.50p. 93.00p. 93.50p. 94.00p. 94.50p. 95.00p. 95.50p. 96.00p. 96.50p. 97.00p. 97.50p. 98.00p. 98.50p. 99.00p. 99.50p. 100.00p. 100.50p. 101.00p. 101.50p. 102.00p. 102.50p. 103.00p. 103.50p. 104.00p. 104.50p. 105.00p. 105.50p. 106.00p. 106.50p. 107.00p. 107.50p. 108.00p. 108.50p. 109.00p. 109.50p. 110.00p. 110.50p. 111.00p. 111.50p. 112.00p. 112.50p. 113.00p. 113.50p. 114.00p. 114.50p. 115.00p. 115.50p. 116.00p. 116.50p. 117.00p. 117.50p. 118.00p. 118.50p. 119.00p. 119.50p. 120.00p. 120.50p. 121.00p. 121.50p. 122.00p. 122.50p. 123.00p. 123.50p. 124.00p. 124.50p. 125.00p. 125.50p. 126.00p. 126.50p. 127.00p. 127.50p. 128.00p. 128.50p. 129.00p. 129.50p. 130.00p. 130.50p. 131.00p. 131.50p. 132.00p. 132.50p. 133.00p. 133.50p. 134.00p. 134.50p. 135.00p. 135.50p. 136.00p. 136.50p. 137.00p. 137.50p. 138.00p. 138.50p. 139.00p. 139.50p. 140.00p. 140.50p. 141.00p. 141.50p. 142.00p. 142.50p. 143.00p. 143.50p. 144.00p. 144.50p. 145.00p. 145.50p. 146.00p. 146.50p. 147.00p. 147.50p. 148.00p. 148.50p. 149.00p. 149.50p. 150.00p. 150.50p. 151.00p. 151.50p. 152.00p. 152.50p. 153.00p. 153.50p. 154.00p. 154.50p. 155.00p. 155.50p. 156.00p. 156.50p. 157.00p. 157.50p. 158.00p. 158.50p. 159.00p. 159.50p. 160.00p. 160.50p. 161.00p. 161.50p. 162.00p. 162.50p. 163.00p. 163.50p. 164.00p. 164.50p. 165.00p. 165.50p. 166.00p. 166.50p. 167.00p. 167.50p. 168.00p. 168.50p. 169.00p. 169.50p. 170.00p. 170.50p. 171.00p. 171.50p. 172.00p. 172.50p. 173.00p. 173.50p. 174.00p. 174.50p. 175.00p. 175.50p. 176.00p. 176.50p. 177.00p. 177.50p. 178.00p. 178.50p. 179.00p. 179.50p. 180.00p. 180.50p. 181.00p. 181.50p. 182.00p. 182.50p. 183.00p. 183.50p. 184.00p. 184.50p. 185.00p. 185.50p. 186.00p. 186.50p. 187.00p. 187.50p. 188.00p. 188.50p. 189.00p. 189.50p. 190.00p. 190.50p. 191.00p. 191.50p. 192.00p. 192.50p. 193.00p. 193.50p. 194.00p. 194.50p. 195.00p. 195.50p. 196.00p. 196.50p. 197.00p. 197.50p. 198.00p. 198.50p. 199.00p. 199.50p. 200.00p. 200.50p. 201.00p. 201.50p. 202.00p. 202.50p. 203.00p. 203.50p. 204.00p. 204.50p. 205.00p. 205.50p. 206.00p. 206.50p. 207.00p. 207.50p. 208.00p. 208.50p. 209.00p. 209.50p. 210.00p. 210.50p. 211.00p. 211.50p. 212.00p. 212.50p. 213.00p. 213.50p. 214.00p. 214.50p. 215.00p. 215.50p. 216.00p. 216.50p. 217.00p. 217.50p. 218.00p. 218.50p. 219.00p. 219.50p. 220.00p. 220.50p. 221.00p. 221.50p. 222.00p. 222.50p. 223.00p. 223.50p. 224.00p. 224.50p. 225.00p. 225.50p. 226.00p. 226.50p. 227.00p. 227.50p. 228.00p. 228.50p. 229.00p. 229.50p. 230.00p. 230.50p. 231.00p. 231.50p. 232.00p. 232.50p. 233.00p. 233.50p. 234.00p. 234.50p. 235.00p. 235.50p. 236.00p. 236.50p. 237.00p. 237.50p. 238.00p. 238.50p. 239.00p. 239.50p. 240.00p. 240.50p. 241.00p. 241.50p. 242.00p. 242.50p. 243.00p. 243.50p. 244.00p. 244.50p. 245.00p. 245.50p. 246.00p. 246.50p. 247.00p. 247.50p.

334-F	MISSOURIAN DANCER (R) Ms S Smith 9 12 D Elmworth	3.25	ARK	D	
3	P230-F	ATLANTA CITY (R) Mc Richards 6 11			
4	00082	SPENDING OCCASION (A) W Cunningham 8 10			
5	5639S	JOHN THE BOY (R) Mc Williams 11 12			
6	4202	LOVE LOVER (R) Mc Williams 11 12			
7	4242F	LAKE OF LOVER (R) J Mackey 9 11			
8	4039S	ROBERTSON (R) Mc Williams 12 10			
9	00822	TUPPER (R) R Thomas 12 10			
10	07320	JACK FLUKE (R) Mc Williams 12 10			
11	7-000	DEMENTALITY (A) (C) S Pickett 12 10			
12	00054	MIR CHRISTIE (P) Mc Williams 7 10			
13	005-F	PARTING THE WAVES (R) T Esterly 6 10			
14	8549-F	CLIMBING (A) E Caines 9 10			
15	4747	THE BOY (R) S Brien 9 10			
16	6-000	REBEL KING (R) B Barnes 9 10			
17	3549-F	GEMOLOGY (R) B Barnes 10 10			

T - died -
 Minimum weight: 100. Ten headcap weight: Rebel King 130. Gemology 140.

BETTING: 2-4 Noble Norman, 6-1 Moonstone Dance, Together, Rubbing, 8-1 Parting The Waves, 10-1 Eternal City, Lake Of Lover, 12-1 Robert, Splendid Occasion, 14-1 others

1	4710	SAMAKI
2	3520S	DAVE
3	45	CORNER
4	42	AT
5	104	EMPIRE
6	40	EMPIRE
7	600	FRYER
8	40	FRYER
9	440	MINTY
10	368	NAHMY
11	40	INFLUX
12	55	NO SUCH
13	40	RIGHT
14	55	NO SUCH
15	52	STAGE

BETTING: 5-10 Samaki, 6-1 Dave, 10-1 Nahmy, 12-1 Influx, 14-1 others

WINCANTON

HYPERION

2.00 Estate Agent 2.30 Knight Templar 3.00 Miss Ondee 3.30 Bucksinn Cameo 4.00 Connaught Cracker 4.30 Yorkshire Edition

GOING: Good to Firm.

- Right-hand, galloping course. Run-in of 200yds.
- Course to north east of town on B3091. Timpelcombe rail station (services from London, Waterloo) an. **ADMISSION:** Members £1k (Junior Members, 17 to 25 yrs, 50p); Tattersalls £10; Course (and cars to course) 25s (Under-85s free into all enclosures).
- **CAR PARKING FREE.**
- **LEADING TRAINERS:** M Pipe 37-143 (25.6%), P Nicholls 43-147 (23.8%), M Pipe 38-155 (23.6%), R Amar 19-140 (3.6%), P Hobbs 13-118 (71%).
- **LEADING JOCKEYS:** A P McCoy 26-132 (56.7%), R Durnwoody

One of Richard Durnwoody's horses to be ESTATE AGENT runs over the 11 days and he comes here last 11 days on the course, with Miss Ondee the debut at Wincanton to enjoy the day and did stay on strongly however.

2.30

CADY CHAIR

1 3-12P NIGHT

2 2633P CHEROKEE

3 407P CROOK

4 3-05P MILLICORP

5 4-34P DUNWOODY

25-12 (214%), T J Murphy 13-58 (224%), R Johnson 2-48 (254%)	BETTING: 11-6 Chertsey, 10-1 Coolish Champ
■ FAVOURITES: 12-59 (375%)	
TONQUE STRAP: 17-40 Fernow (330)	
BLANKHEED FIRST TIME: 11-58 Regatta (230), Shade (240)	
■ FAVOURITES: 10-50, Nobel Lad (330), Nickless Lass (430)	
2.00 NINE HOLE NATIONAL HUNT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added to stakes 2m	
1 22551 ESTATE AGENT (11) (CO) P Nichols 5-12 ... R Dunwoody	
2 35 FAX IT HOME (177) R Buckle 9-10 ... D O'Sullivan (7)	
3 50 LAND OF CLOVES (AT) A Murphy 6-10 ... G Sappin (6)	
4 3057F LORRYBORN COTTAGE (NO) K Kelly 11-10 ... W Walsh	
5 402 MY MAN DAN (25) B De Haan 6-10 ... L Cummins (3)	
6 400 RIDGEHOP POST (55) P Cawling 6-10 ... R Winger (5)	
7 3000 THOMAS BOB FELLA (28) C Williams 5-10 ... O Barrows (5)	
8 260328 PRIMER PRIMITIVE (35) C Drewes 6-10 ... Mr N Bailey (7)	
3.00 GOLD CUP CLAD	
1 0520 AFFRON	
2 1040 HERRING	
3 6050 ANOTHER	
4 6220 SHADE	

FORM VERDICT FORM VERDICT

FORM VERDICT

[illegible]

ENDALE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS

12 04DF05 MELAN KING (7) A J Lockwood 6 10 3 Miss A Deniel (5)
13 0P-P53 JUST JAKE (9) (BF) J Jetterson 6 10 0 Mr C Russell (7)
- 13 declared -

INDIAN CHASE
added to stakes

Minimum weight: 105. True handicapper: Just Julia Set 13th.
BETTING: 4-1 Blaine O'Neil, 4-1 Durawo, 11-2 Opulent, 10-1 6-Way Lady, 8-1 Pellerander, 10-1 Alpine Hideraway, 12-1 James The First, Just Julia, 14-1 others.

FORM VERDICT

Blaze of Oak, who has won for today's race, looks to have been set off pretty lightly for his wins but the chances are the ground will be faster today and he could be worth taking on with ALPINE HIDEAWAY, who's well treated on his best form and should appreciate the better surface.

■ Carley Lad, a winner at Twocaster on Saturday, now heads to Aintree on Friday for the John Hughes Trophy. Winning jockey Richard Guest said: "It's a sporting run. He'll be out of the hand-icap and will probably carry 10st.3lb or 10st.4lb. We came to Twocaster as it was a realistic race. Aintree will be for fun."

FORM VERDICT

13. N. Wilmington (4) **4.22** IMPROVE YOUR HANDICAP CHASE

\$50 10 G Supple
Gay Lewis (3)

Shade Cremasthya, 7-
Tent Lily, 33-1 others

The year ago in the claim-
time and her entrance
to apply as AFON re,
but she may well
drop. She drops in class.
She grounds to pass.

PARK HANDCAMP
added 2m 6f

Mrs C J Mann
B n t B H Gay Lewis (3)

(CLASS E) \$25,000 added 2m

49228 ROBERTS PRIDE (18) (CO) C Popham 9 10 L Dunscombe (3)
2-05N SUPER MAC (13) T F Walker 6 11 S 7 Desborough
42392 CONNAUGHT CRACKER (7) R A Nichols 9 10 O

42390 GUANO (18) (D) C Mann 7 10 Z Mr N Feahy (7) B
PZ1-PF PRIMATIVE STREAK (132) (BP) R Hodges 8 0 6 J Post
1-UJ-F MECHANISM (387) (L) K Ryall 11 10 S Upright
R-LAF-R EAST ASSET (22) (11) (H) D De Hean 10 0 0 O Burrows (5)
4-SPS KILLONE RIWER (18) R Anes 7 0 0 R Whigter (5)
3P345 HIGH DANIELS (144) C Henratty 11 0 0 Miles & Dudley (7)
..... declared -

Minimum weight 70st. Top handicap weights For East St 60 lb., Killone River
St 62 lb., High Danes St 60 lb.

BETTING: 15-6 Connaught Cracker, 11-4 Super Mac, 1-5 Robina Prince,
6-1 Guano, 9-1 Primative Streak, 10-1 East Asst, 14-1 Mechanism, 20-1
others

FORM VERDICT

3 40055 BOLTON FOREST (13) C Mann 6
4 01246 NOBEL LAD (27) M Pipe 5 11 8

Mr N Fehily (7)
G Supple (3) B

[illegible]

INDICATION:

WINCANTON

HYPERION

2.00 Estate Agent 2.30 Knight Templar 3.00 Miss Ondee 3.30 Buckskin Cameo 4.00 Connaught Cracker 4.30 Yorkshire Edition

GOING: Good to Firm.

- Right-hand, galloping course. Run-in of 200yds.
- Course to north east of town on B3091. Templecombe rail station (services from London, Waterloo) an. ADMISSION: Members £1k (non Members, 7p to 22 years, 50p); Tattersalls £10; Course (and cars to course) £25 (Under-85s free into all enclosures).

CAR PARK: Free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 37-143 (25.9%), P Nicholls 43-147 (24.5%), M Pipe 38-165 (23.3%), R Amisr 19-140 (13.6%), P Hobbs 13-78 (16.1%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 26-132 (61.7%), R Dumbleton

One of Richard Dumbleton's horses to be ESTATE AGENT runs over the course and he comes home last 11 days ago, when with Miss Ondee he was the debut at Wincanton to enjoy a "red hot" day on the straight however.

2.30

CADY CHAIR

1

3-12P

RIGHT

2

2633P

CHEROKEE

3

407P

COOLIN

4

3-05Z

MILNICH

5

454P

DUNRODDY

24-712 (214%), T J Murphy 13-58 (224%), R Johnson 12-48 (25%).

TOP FAVOURITES: 172-499 (375%).

TONGUE STRAP: Belton Forward (330).

BLANKHEED FIRST TIME: Mildred Regatta (230), Shade O'mantheater (330), Nobel Last (330), Nickles Lass (430).

2.00 NINE HOLE 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added to stakes 2m

1 22551 ESTATE AGENT (11) (20) P McLeod 5 12-0 ... R Dunwoody
 2 35 FAX IT ALONG (177) R Buckle 9 10 ... O'Drullin (6)
 3 60 LAND OF CHIMES (AT) T Murphy 5 11-0 ... G Sepple (6)
 4 3055F LORRYCOTE COTTAGE (100) R G Bailey 11 ... J Welsh

5 412 MY MAN DAN (25) B De Haem 6 11-0 ... L Cummins (5)
 6 400 MIDGSON POST (55) P Cawlings 6 10-0 ... R Winger (5)
 7 3007 THOMAS BOB FELLA (25) P Whelan 5 11-0 ... O Barrows (5)

8 260328 PRIMER PRIMITIVE (35) C Drewes 6 10-9 ... Mr N Bailey (7)

3.00 GOLD CLAD

1 040 AFFRON (11) ...
 2 1520 HERRING ...
 3 6050 ANOTHER ...
 4 6220 SHADY ...

KNIGHT TEMPLE
 Unprofit on firm ground, making the most of his speed. The sound and although he handle heavy going with Paul Nicholson. They are preferred.

TOPOFF (17) J King 8 ft 1
C Durham (7) B
L Cummins
D Burman

TAKE (32) R Frost 6 T O T O'Connor (4) at a false price. 3-

Dunwoody can round off the afternoon with a win on YORKSHIRE EDITION, who scored over the course and distance

in December and faces much weaker opposition today.

SPORT

Monty's poor show is par for course

AS AN exercise in boosting the confidence of British golfers going into this week's US Masters, the final round of the Bell South Classic was less than successful. Colin Montgomerie closed with a 76, making Europe's No 1 a combined 19 over par for the last day of his four tournaments in the United States.

"I lost interest at the end," said Montgomerie, who bogeyed the last three holes. "Nothing was happening. I didn't have any confidence

GOLF
BY ANDY FARRELL
in Duluth, Georgia

going into the weekend, and I haven't got any leaving it. This was my 16th round in the States and the 16th time I've putted badly."

As for the Masters, a tournament at which Montgomerie has often struggled before finishing eighth last year, the Scot said: "I'm not worried about next week. It hasn't worked out in the

past and if it doesn't work out this time, it'll be no different. I am not going there with any expectations. I'm just going to play. It is just another tournament. I might do well, I might not."

Ian Woosnam was so frustrated with his putting that he handed over his putter to a nine-year-old boy in the gallery after his 75. "My short game is diabolical. It is driving me nuts," the Welshman said. "What is disappointing is that I am beginning to hit the ball better, but I can't get the ball in the hole."

Woosnam will contemplate returning to the broom-handled version at Augusta, but more importantly will first get treatment for the back injury he suffered on Friday. "My back is sore more than anything else," he said.

David Duval, a week after a gruelling but ultimately successful campaign at The Players' Championship, was again in contention on the final day of the BellSouth. Duval, by his own admission, has not played his best at the TPC of Sugarloaf,

but it was still good enough to share third place with a round to go, one stroke behind Stewart Cink, who has just bought a house on the 14th hole here, and the Canadian Mike Weir.

The 27-year-old American did not even consider the possibility of a let-down following his big win in his home town of Jacksonville last week. "What happened at Sawgrass has no bearing on how I played this week," he said. "I am good at forgetting it and getting on with focusing on the next one."

What are you going to start doing? Not play after you win a tournament? That won't work."

But Duval has taken the sensible precaution of not immediately going on to Augusta. Instead, he will rest and not play a practice round until Wednesday. He has already seen the changes to the course in two outings there last month. The chance of victory in the BellSouth held more significance for some as it would

guarantee a trip to the Masters. Weir, who won the Qualifying School last year, and Rory Sabbatini, the youngest player on the US tour, were both in that category.

Sabbatini, who celebrated his 23rd birthday with a 65 on Friday to take a four-stroke advantage at the halfway point, only got into the tournament as an alternate and vowed to have fun. A 73 on Saturday left the South African tied for third with Duval and John Huston.

"When I started going downhill, I looked like the Exxon Valdez," Sabbatini said. "Golf is a funny thing, a lot like love. It is not how you handle the good things but when you have adversity."

A pro for only six months, Sabbatini is sure where he is heading. "I am a little fish in a big pond," he said. "I am like the guy nipping at the tail but keep getting thrown back. Each day I am growing. When I get to the right size, I will be ready."

Results, Digest, page 11

Ambrose defied by Miller's assault

CURTLY AMBROSE seized the initiative for the West Indies with three quick wickets on the second morning of the fourth Test yesterday before a withering counter-attack by the Australian No 10, Colin Miller, stopped him in his tracks.

Miller, a 35-year-old in his first Test of the series whose average in his six previous Tests was four, blasted 41 off 38 balls and dominated a stand of 53 with his captain Steve Waugh that allowed Australia to recover to a total of 303 before they were all out just before lunch.

Armed with a ball 10 overs old and with the support of his boisterous home crowd, Ambrose dismissed Ian Healy, Adam Dale and Stuart MacGill, all to slip catches off tentative edges, for 21 runs within the first 50 minutes.

When Miller arrived, Australia had limped to 242 for 8 from their overnight 221 for 5 and Waugh, 59, was in danger of running out of partners before he could make any attempt at raising a reasonable total.

Miller's approach to the situation was forthright and immediate, paying particular attention to the bemused and tiring Ambrose.

He pulled the great fast bowler for four, then twice hoisted him over midwicket for sixes, the first clearing the stand and ending up alongside the wall of the adjoining prison, and leg-glanced him for another boundary.

Ambrose took his three wickets for nine runs from his first five overs. Once Miller got hold of him, his next three overs cost 32 and Brian Lara was forced to remove him to save him from the indignity of more punishment.

He turned to the more gentle offerings of Jimmy Adams' left-arm spin which did the trick in six balls. Miller cross-batted a catch to midwicket.

Alert to the sentiments of the 8,000 packed into the stands, Lara quickly recalled Ambrose for the chance to claim his fifth wicket of the innings. He duly obliged, finding Glenn McGrath's edge for a catch to the keeper.

Once more, Waugh found

CRICKET
BY TONY COZIER
in St John's, Antigua

Australia 303
West Indies 58-2

himself left high and dry, unbeset on 72.

His strategy throughout the morning was as baffling as Lara's. Waugh made no attempt to shield his partners who were obliged to receive 104 balls, off which they scored 53, while he had only 40, adding a mere 20 to his overnight 32.

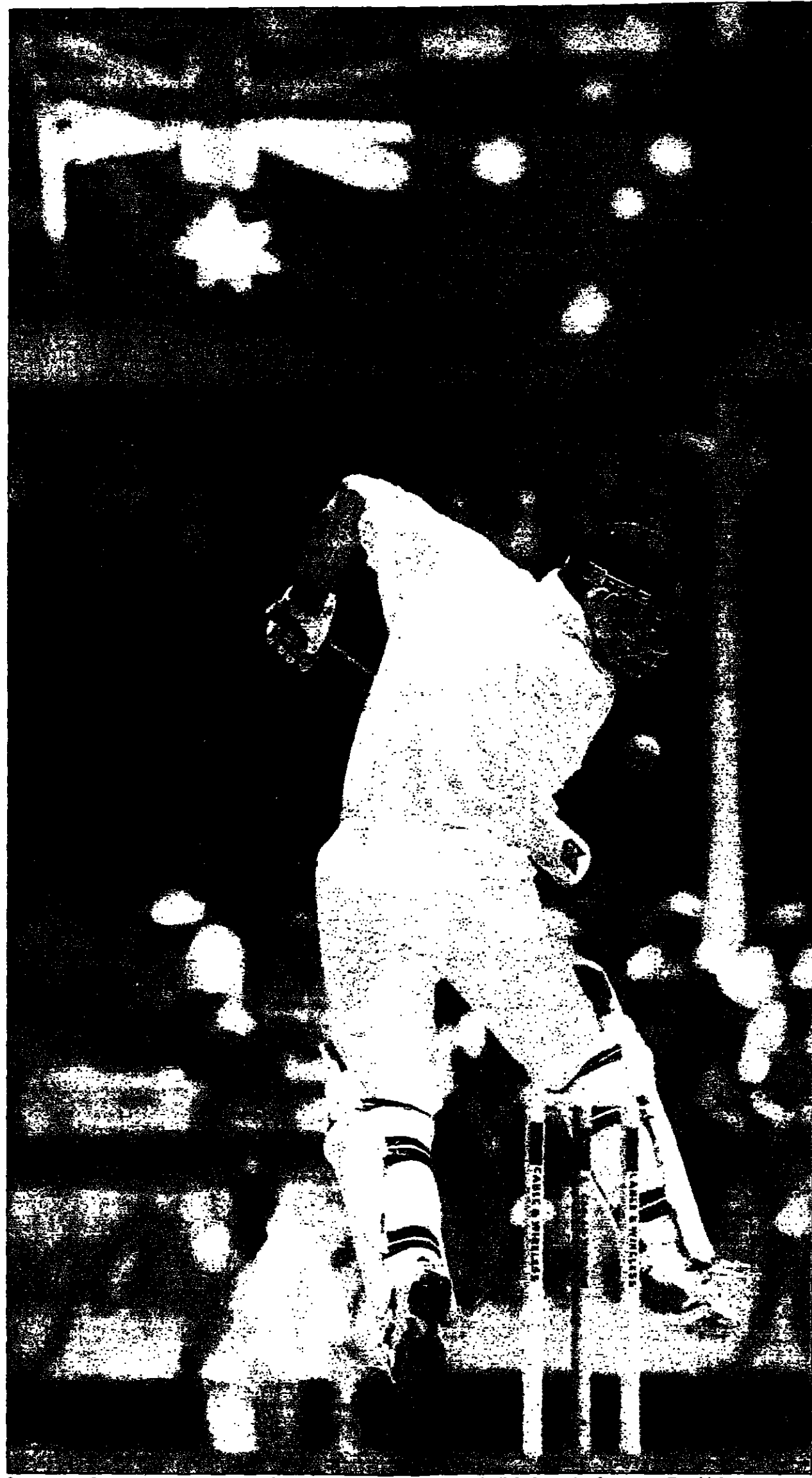
For his part, Lara allowed Miller to upset his game plan immediately. As soon as the tallender scooped Ambrose over mid-on for two, his first scoring shot, Lara started to scatter his fielders around the outfield, easing the pressure. Ambrose did not help the situation by pounding the ball in short.

With an inexperienced attack backing him up McGrath, with 236 wickets in his 48 Tests, would have to shoulder the main responsibility and he should have had an early wicket. Sherwin Campbell had scored only a single when he edged a loose drive to third slip where Michael Slater put down a straightforward, two-handed catch.

Australia won toss; second day of five
Australia - First innings
M J Slater c Joseph b Perry 33
G S Blewett c Jacobs b Collymore 32
J Langer run out 51
M E Waugh c Hooper b Walsh 11
S R Waugh not out 72
R T Ponting b b Ambrose 21
I A Healy c Hooper b Ambrose 9
A C Dale c Hooper b Ambrose 1
S C G MacGill c Joseph b Ambrose 4
C R Miller c Joseph b Adams 43
D D McGrath c Jacobs b Ambrose 5
Extras (lb 5, nb 12) 17
Total (111.5 overs) 303
Fall: 1-60, 2-76, 3-96, 4-155, 5-211, 6-226, 7-232, 8-242, 9-295.
Bowling: Ambrose 25.4-6-94-5 (nb6), Walsh 26.1-67-1 (nb7), Collymore 25.6-40 (nb4), Perry 15.5-36-1 Adams 6-1-18-1, Hooper 10-1-36-0 (nb2).

WEST INDIES - First innings
S L Campbell c M E Waugh b Miller 8
A P G Gilmour c Healy b Miller 9
D R E Joseph not out 31
B C Lara not out 31
Extras (nb 3) 3
Total (100.2 overs) 58
Fall: 1-19, 2-20

To bat: C L Hooper, I C Adams, R D Jacobs, N O Perry, C L Ambrose, C A Walsh, C D Collymore.
Bowling: McGrath 19.4-12-0, Dale 10.4-5-0 (nb2), Miller 6-2-17-2 (nb1), MacGill 1-0-4-0.
Extras (lb 1, nb 1).
Total 111.1 (101).



Steve Waugh, the Australia captain, jumps to avoid a bouncer at St John's yesterday

David Gray/Reuters

Edwards to miss Wembley

SHAUN EDWARDS is out of the London Broncos' Wembley dress-rehearsal at Leeds today and, more damagingly, out of the Challenge Cup final itself.

The former Great Britain scrum-half feared he had broken his thumb in the semi-final victory over Castleford, but played in the home match against Hull on Good Friday.

"He came off at Headingley and knew it wasn't right, but he tried to smokescreen it," the London coach, Dan Stains, said. "He thought he could get through on painkillers, but the X-ray shows quite a big crack at the base of his thumb and he will be out for two or three months."

"It's a blow for him and we will miss his organisational skills, but these things sometimes happen for a purpose." Edwards, 10 times a Wembley finalist, is replaced today by Glen Air, the Australian half-back who was in and out of the team last year and has just made a timely recovery from a pre-season knee injury.

"It's a great opportunity for him," Stains said. "Glen's got my full support and I know he will do a good job. From what I've seen, he's got the talent and we will find out what he's made of over the next month."

Stains also has problems in his pack for today's return to Headingley, with Robbie Simpson, Robbie Beazley and Peter Gill all doubtful. In traditional manner, he will try to isolate the match from events a month ahead and concentrate on maintaining the Broncos' winning start in Super League.

"Our focus is on the here-and-now and it's the two competition points we need," he said.

At least one of Super League's other perfect records will disappear today when Bradford go to St Helens. Both

RUGBY LEAGUE
BY DAVE HADFIELD

have had morale-boosting victories over their traditional rivals - the Bulls over Leeds and Saints at Wigan - in the first part of the holiday programme, but Bradford have had an extra day to recover.

The other perfect record, surprisingly perhaps, belongs to Warrington, who host Gateshead, themselves encouraged by their first competition points against Wakefield on Good Friday.

Wigan go to Wakefield with two more players out of action. Danny Moore and Mark Reber's injuries in the defeat by St Helens force their coach, John Monie, to reshuffle what look like suspiciously limited resources, with Lee Gilmour at centre and Jason Robinson back in his old schoolboy position of scrum-half.

Dwayne West should get his first start on the wing, despite an uncomfortable debut against St Helens, and Denis Betts makes his first appearance of the season.

The televised game at noon sees Sheffield try to maintain the momentum from their first victory against Ruddersfield at Hull, one of three teams without a win so far.

The broader question is how clubs will cope with games on either side of the weekend and whether the high standard of rugby in the early stages of the season can be sustained.

Taking the Cup semi-finals into account, there can rarely have been a better week of big games than the one just ended. The quality of rugby has shown what it is that Super League could put at jeopardy by trying to overload the number of fixtures.

TOMORROW

Comprehensive coverage of a major day of sporting action

Football: Reports from all the leading matches, including two crucial games at the bottom of the Premiership, Coventry v Southampton and Everton v Sheffield Wednesday

Rugby League: Dave Hadfield reports on the Challenge Cup final rehearsal between Leeds and the London Broncos

Crickets: Tony Cozier reports from Antigua as the West Indies take on Australia

Tennis: John Roberts on the aftermath of Britain's memorable Davis Cup tie against the United States

Racing: Can Richard Dunwoody break Peter Scudamore's all-time record of National Hunt victories?

ACTION REPLAY

Magnificent Mottram keeps British hopes alive

FRIDAY
8
DECEMBER
1978

The last time Great Britain met the USA in the Davis Cup final was December, 1978 when young John McEnroe made his debut for the home team who were not favourites. But one Briton had other ideas on the first day. This is how the Daily Express reported it.

BUSTER MOTTRAM magnificently kept British hopes alive against the US yesterday with a thrilling back-to-the-wall victory over Brian Gottfried by 4-6, 2-6, 10-8, 6-4, 6-3.

The tall British No 1 won a four-and-a-quarter-hour marathon and Britain finished the first day of this world cup of tennis - their first final for 41 years - dead level.

John Lloyd, the British No 2, had gone down 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 to John McEnroe in the opening match. But Buster, playing at his meanest and most magnificent, had them stamping and

BY REG LANCASTER
in Palm Springs

waving their Union Jacks again as he snarled defiance at the Americans. Mottram looked down and out after two sets. But he produced some of the gutsiest tennis he has ever shown in international contests to turn the match upside down and claim a superb triumph.

Few men have been so completely beaten as 34-year-old Lloyd was in the opening match. McEnroe hardly put a foot or a ball wrong and there was little Lloyd could do to slow

him down - let alone stop him. The match lasted just 100 minutes - every one of them torture for Lloyd.

Lloyd played under the handicap of a grazed finger which leaked blood onto his racket grip. "But that was no excuse. I just wish it was," he said later. "McEnroe was just too hot. Nobody has made me look such an idiot in my life before. He was two classes above me. I needed God on my side to have a chance. He attacked every one of my weaknesses. I didn't think he could keep the pressure on like that."

McEnroe's left-handed serve is one of the most difficult in the world to handle and Lloyd admitted: "I didn't have a clue where the ball was going." It was a fair summing up. McEnroe started with two aces and finished with another. That's confidence, and from a kid playing his first Davis Cup singles match, it was a staggeringly mature performance.

Mottram too, showed a tremendous maturity after losing the first two sets. He never gave up. He was in his best mood, contesting decisions he thought were wrong

and refusing to be rattled. When Gottfried battled to five-all in the third set after trailing 2-4, Buster snapped straight back by taking the eleventh game and was serving for the set.

But then his troubles really started. Two aces gave him two set points but he was foot-faulted and Gottfried broke service for 6-6. Mottram was foot-faulted five more times before he took the set 10-8 on his sixth set point six games later.

Mottram was Britain's only winner in the final which the US eventually won 4-1.



Mottram: gutsy performance for Britain

MSI

MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY

It came from outer space

If men are from Mars and women from Venus, which part of the cosmos does multimillion-selling author John Gray inhabit? And who tidies his cave?

John Gray PhD (via a correspondence course) is the author of *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus* (A Practical Guide for Improving Communication and Getting What You Want in Your Relationships), which was first published in 1993 and has since sold 13 million copies in 40 languages – 13 million! 40 languages! – and is jam-packed with pithy little sayings which sound like wholly profound aphorisms until you realise that maybe they aren't.

"Generally speaking, when a woman offers a man unsolicited advice, she has no idea how unloving she sounds to him." (p 21)

Anyway, since then he's produced endless variations on the theme: *Mars and Venus, 365 Ways to Keep Your Love Alive*; *Mars and Venus Forever Together*; *Mars and Venus in Love*; *Mars and Venus on a Date*; *Mars and Venus Starting Over*; *Mars and Venus in the Bedroom*. Golly, where is it all going to end? *Mars and Venus Test-Drive the Fiat Punto*? *Mars and Venus Wonder Why There Aren't Orange Ones in Bags of Revels Anymore*? *Mars and Venus: The Movie*? "Actually," replies Mr Gray, "Meg Ryan is real interested in that."

"No!"
"Yup," he replies happily.
"Is she a typical Venusian, then?"
"She's a great Venusian," he whoops.
"But who would make a great Martian? George Clooney?"

"Sure. Or Tom Hanks."
"But not John Inman?"
"Gee, I love that show. We get it on PBS in the States. It's so funny."

"Generally speaking," I say, "the thing about *Are You Being Served?* is that all the staff take their tea breaks at the same time, thus making Grace Brothers a shoplifter's paradise during certain periods of the day."

"Hey, you're right!" John cries. "Gee, I never thought of that."

Sometimes, what I say can sound pretty stupid, until you realise it is actually wholly profound.

Anyway, I meet Mr Gray, a Texan who now lives in California in a big house with "seven gardens and a beautiful swimming pool", at a London hotel. He is here to promote his latest book – *How To Get What You Want and Want What You Have* (Mars and Venus having yet to get back from test-driving the Fiat Punto, presumably). It's a lot of waffle about "god and love tanks" and fulfilling your higher potential: yet, such is John Gray's following, it is already number four in the bestseller lists here, behind the original *Mars, Venus* book, which still sits at number three. I say the latest book doesn't do a lot for me, frankly. He shrugs, as he can mightily afford to, and says: "All my books are not for everybody. I feel like I'm a big department store with lots of different outfits. If it fits you, great. If it doesn't, then it's not for you." Aside from pithy aphorisms, it is, it would seem, a bit of a one for metaphors, too. John, can't some people's relationship problems go deeper than mere communication difficulties? "If you're trained to be a pilot, you can fly a jet," he says. "Same thing with relationships. You can be trained to have a successful one."

This guy is truly a phenomenon, although, physically, he doesn't especially strike you as one. He is actually quite small and round, and looks rather like a Babybel cheese with a wig on. Certainly, he is remarkably young-looking for 49. He says this is because he used to be a monk, still meditates a lot and "once went without sex for nine years" – "although I've made up for it since, ha! ha!" He is wearing a lovely, navy Italian suit. "A gift from my American publishers," he explains. His American publishers, HarperCollins, also annually send him and his family to Hawaii and once, on a book tour, "I forgot to bring my coat, so they met me at the hotel in New York with a beautiful cashmere one I still wear". He adds: "When you're on *The New York Times* bestseller list for four years solid, you sure do get treated like a king." I nod knowingly.

Anyway, what is all the fuss about? Why is *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus* now the biggest-selling self-help book ever? How come John Gray can sell out Carnegie Hall? How come, on top of all the books, there are also audio tapes and CD-ROMs and board games and T-shirts that say "My wife's from Venus" (or "My husband's from Mars")? Across America there are even licensed therapists who have received accreditation from one of Gray's training courses and can consequently advertise their services as "Mars-Venus friendly". How come friends of mine who I've previously thought of as sane have said things to me like "You haven't read the book? You must!" and "Whatever you do, don't bother a man when he's in his cave!" So I do go off and read it. And, yes, I am brilliantly



William Webster

impressed. It's a magnificent book. It's a total masterpiece of a book. The thesis? That men and women are fundamentally different creatures, and once this is appreciated and behaviour tailored accordingly, we are all destined to live happily ever after.

The differences? Men are goal-oriented. Men value "power, competency, efficiency and achievement". Men don't want to talk about problems. Men want to seek solutions. When men seek solutions, they need to go into their caves (ie, sit in front of the telly watching football). Never disturb a man in his cave. Never give a man unsolicited advice, because it undermines his feelings of competence and (heaven forbid) he might take it as a criticism. Never shout: "ALL I ASKED YOU TO DO WAS BRING A PINT OF MILK HOME, YOU FAT LAZY LUMMOXI!" I imagine that, mostly, women buy this book. And I would imagine, too, that it does improve their relationships because, instead of allowing men to natter them, they just allow them to get on with being stupid and idle and sulking a lot. This is why, possibly, it's all so brilliant, in its way.

And women? Women value "love, beauty, communication and relationships". Women often just want to talk about their problems, without necessarily seeking solutions. Men should listen more. Men should resist offering solutions. When a woman cries "I've no time for me!" he shouldn't say "Pack in the job". He should say: "Hm, sounds like you've had a hard day." And when he forgets the milk she, in turn, should say: "OK, honey. Maybe you could remember tomorrow?" And if he forgets tomorrow, she should say: "That's OK. Maybe you could remember tomorrow?" "And you just keep on at it like that until he eventually gets it," says John (Still, it might be wise never to ask a man to bring you back a kidney, should you ever be in need of an urgent transplant).

I don't doubt, actually, that men and women are different. But this is just rehabilitating ancient, sexist clichés, isn't it? Although, that said, John's superbly

Stepfordy-sounding wife seems to fit the stereotype rather well. "When Bonnie sees I'm in my cave," says John, "she goes out to shop." Bonnie, apparently, will often thank John for dinner, even after she's cooked it. "She treats me as if I'd provided the meal, because I work hard and she is looking for a way to acknowledge my part in things." For his part, he doesn't have to be asked 769 times to change light bulbs or take out the rubbish. "In the Martian world, what's valued are things that make money. Changing bulbs and emptying trash don't make money... that's how a man's mind works. But if you ask him to do these things as if you were asking him for the first time, then give him a little reward by saving

feelings." So a woman who wants to achieve isn't normal? "Somewhere along the line I would see there was a wound that needed healing." Would you say you were pro-women, John? "I'm really into women having careers and everything!"

So, who exactly is John Gray? He grew up in Austin, Texas, in a family of seven children. The family sounds brilliantly dysfunctional. His younger brother, Jimmy, was a manic depressive who eventually shot himself in the head. His father was an oil executive who "wasn't a great communicator. He loved us, but he'd been a sergeant in the army, and we would have to stand to attention before going to church on Sunday morning at a certain time and be in our suits. He actually had a loudspeaker." God, how very *The Sound of Music*, I say. "Yes. When we went to see the movie, and Von Trapp did that whistle, the reaction from the audience was: 'Oh, how horrible.' But my reaction was: 'This is perfectly normal to me.' How did your mother cope?" "Well, my father always travelled a lot. He probably figured he'd do less damage that way."

Years later, when John had just married Bonnie and started out on the self-help lark, his father died in the trunk of a car. He'd picked up a couple of hitchhikers in Texas, who ended up stealing his money and locking him in his trunk. He died of heat asphyxiation. John, who was honeymooning in Canada, flew back and insisted on visiting the sight of his father's death. He even climbed inside the trunk to get a more vivid sense of his father's last moments. While inside, he noticed his father had prised off one of the tail lights, presumably for air. He stuck a hand out. At this point, one of his brothers shouted: "Try to reach round and press the button to open the trunk." John opened the trunk. And this taught him a lesson: "There are so many people in the world who are locked in trunks, and need someone on the outside to tell them how to get out." This man even thinks in aphorisms that sound wholly profound, until you realise they aren't.

After graduating from high school, he bummed about a bit, experimenting with dope and LSD, until getting into Transcendental Meditation – "a great way of getting high without wrecking your body". He went on to spend most of his twenties as a devotee of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, rising through the TM ranks to eventually become his personal assistant, remaining celibate for those nine years, and living with him at his headquarters in Switzerland. Then, once he'd decided he'd "gone as far as you can go" with TM, he retired from monkhood and settled in California to study psychology via correspondence and to start touring *Making Love Workshops*. This went well until a friend said: "John, you're great at what you do, but you treat women and men as if they're the same, and they're not."

"I had resistance to that, because I'm real pro-women, but then I started looking at the research and found a lot that had started out trying to prove men and women were the same but had ended up proving they were different. And I saw how the differences created unnecessary tensions and frustrations. Then one day I saw the movie *ET*. And I thought, that's it! Men and women are from different planets! And I got goose bumps when I thought of it, so I knew right then it was a great discovery."

Can we truly learn something from all this? I don't know. I go home. It's dark by the time I get there, not because it's late, but because the bulb's gone in the hall, and has been gone for some time. My partner? He is in his cave, eating Kettle Chips and watching *Star Trek*. I say: "It's OK you didn't do the light bulb today. Or yesterday. Or last year. Maybe tomorrow?" He says: "Are you drunk?" I soon was. "When men and women are able to respect and accept their differences, then love will blossom." (p 14)

How To Get What You Want and Want What You Have (Vermilion, £9.99); *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus* (Thorsons, £9.99)

BY DEBORAH ROSS
FEATURE WRITER
OF THE YEAR

'Oh, thanks so much', he'll soon jump to it as soon as you ask. Bonnie only has to say 'trash' now, and I'll stop anything to take it out."

But can't women be Martians? Can't they value "achievement, power and goals"? Wouldn't you say Margaret Thatcher was a Martian? "Of course, women can be Martians. But when a woman comes to me who appears to be from Mars, I say: 'OK, you've developed your Martian side, but let's look at why, somewhere in your past, someone has ridiculed, minimised or put down your Venusian



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Caring for Kosovo

Sir: I was born in Russia, but for more than a decade now I have taken great pride in calling Britain – the cradle of modern European democracy and a country with a well deserved reputation for tolerance and fairness – my home. It saddens me deeply to see your government's unquestioning support for the self-righteous and unceremonious foreign policy of the USA under Bill Clinton.

Since the beginning of the Kosovo conflict, Nato, led by the US, has been bending over backwards to pick a fight with Serbia by repeatedly presenting her with "solutions" on deliberately unacceptable terms. Of all the pro-Albanian factions in Kosovo, Nato chose to support the ultra-nationalist KLA, which in only 18 months of open existence has, according to Human Rights Watch, committed an impressive string of human rights violations and come under investigation for heroin trafficking.

None of this has in any way eased the plight of Kosovar Albanians at large. Thus far, Nato actions have only inflamed an already raging conflict.

A refugee crisis has arrived with unwelcome predictability, but there is still no coherent effort to deal with it. We are led to believe that making even the most basic provisions in advance would have aided President Milosevic in his evil quest.

It appears that Nato cares no more for the Albanians it is supposedly protecting than it does for the Serbs it is attacking. This "peace-enforcement mission" bears an uncanny resemblance to the "brotherly assistance" offered by the late USSR to Afghanistan. PAVEL GOUDOCHNIKOV
Southampton

Sir: Many of your correspondents who support the bombing of the Serbs and sending in the infantry to "finish the job" draw parallels between present-day Serbia and Nazi Germany. This is dangerous and inaccurate nonsense.

Dangerous because comparing a series of low-intensity civil wars in which no more than 250,000 have died with the total conflagration of the Second World War risks trivialising the indelible stain on humanity that was the Holocaust.

Inaccurate because Nazi Germany invaded other states, slaughtering civilians by the million and thus occupied most of Europe and North Africa. Apart from a recent American cruise missile in Bulgaria, not a single shot has landed outside the frontiers of the former Yugoslavia.

It is a sign of the unjustifiable nature of current Nato action that its advocates are driven to such excesses of exaggeration. BRIAN POCOCK
London W6

Sir: The consequences of the US-inspired attack on Serbia were so predictable that one can only assume that Clinton and his advisors are either very stupid or very devious. I cannot believe that the mass expulsion of the Albanian population of Kosovo was unexpected, so is it not more credible that it is part of a larger plan to tidy up the map of the region?

The US strategists fear the threat of Islam, and may feel that firm and stable governments dividing the Balkans on a north-south axis are the least bad option.

The masterstroke of the US plan was to appear to be on the side of the angels, and for everyone to have a perfect excuse to condemn what is happening and say it is not their fault. My only problem with this theory is wondering where it leaves the rest of the Nato leaders.

Can everyone really be so naive as to have been hoodwinked by the US, or are they all involved in the conspiracy? RICHARD WOODALL
Milborne Port, Somerset

Sir: International Health Exchange (IHE) is a charity which specialises in recruiting health

workers to work in humanitarian aid and relief operations. We are recruiting experienced medics and nurses with public health skills and experience of refugees to work with the British government and UNHCR in Albania to deal with the portending refugee crisis. People must be ready to leave within 24-48 hours. IHE holds a list of people recruited for this purpose and has already found eight who are willing and able to go to Albania.

However, there are others on the list who cannot go, some for personal reasons, others because their pre-negotiated release agreements are not water-tight – perhaps they have just started a new job or they have more than one employer; perhaps their employer, though in principle willing to let them go, does not have the capacity to organise locums to cover their posts whilst they are away. Perhaps there are not sufficient locums available to take on their often highly specialised roles.

This is a big crisis and will require a big response. Our ability to organise that response depends not only on the commitment of those experienced aid workers who measure up to the jobs on the ground, but on the goodwill of those who employ and manage them in their regular jobs – the National Health Service. ALICE TILGUI
Director, International Health Exchange
London WC2

Sir: Thank goodness for David Aaronovitch ("Why do these decent folk find it so difficult to support the war?", 1 April). His article has cut through the muddled thinking of so many "decent folk" who would, by their inactivity, keep Milosevic and his henchmen going.

Would these decent folk like the ethnic cleansing to be performed a little more slowly and in manageable doses, so that their personal threshold of tolerance is never quite exceeded? Many of us,

workers to work in humanitarian aid and relief operations. We are recruiting experienced medics and nurses with public health skills and experience of refugees to work with the British government and UNHCR in Albania to deal with the portending refugee crisis. People must be ready to leave within 24-48 hours. IHE holds a list of people recruited for this purpose and has already found eight who are willing and able to go to Albania.

However, there are others on the list who cannot go, some for personal reasons, others because their pre-negotiated release agreements are not water-tight – perhaps they have just started a new job or they have more than one employer; perhaps their employer, though in principle willing to let them go, does not have the capacity to organise locums to cover their posts whilst they are away. Perhaps there are not sufficient locums available to take on their often highly specialised roles.

This is a big crisis and will require a big response. Our ability to organise that response depends not only on the commitment of those experienced aid workers who measure up to the jobs on the ground, but on the goodwill of those who employ and manage them in their regular jobs – the National Health Service. ALICE TILGUI
Director, International Health Exchange
London WC2

Sir: Thank goodness for David Aaronovitch ("Why do these decent folk find it so difficult to support the war?", 1 April). His article has cut through the muddled thinking of so many "decent folk" who would, by their inactivity, keep Milosevic and his henchmen going.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Changing Poland No 1: A businessman hurries past the Palace of Culture, a relic of the Soviet era, in Warsaw

Tom Pilon

Sir: In your letters pages, many otherwise progressive people appear to be asking, "Who are they against?" rather than, "What do they represent?" when deciding where to stand on action against the Serbs.

Their world view is looking worryingly like a mirror image of that of Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan in the 1980s, when conservatives turned a blind eye to what various military dictatorships around the world were doing to their own people for no better reason than that they were anti-communist.

I am no fan of bombing people but I do think that we have to do better than "My enemy's enemy is my friend" when thinking about the current bout of ethnic cleansing in Europe. DIRK SINGER
London SW3

Turkish conspiracy

Sir: I usually refrain from responding to ill-tempered and unfocused attempts to smear our TV station such as the Ambassador of Turkey's letter to you (29 March). However, I feel obliged to respond when I read

allegations that we are a Marxist TV station "supporting the IRA... and employing Greeks and Serbians". Sounds like a bad case of the conspiracy theories to me.

MedTV exists to give a voice to all Kurdish voices, whether pro- or anti-PKK, and all shades of opinion between the two. We are an uncensored voice and we would happily welcome Turkish government spokesmen to participate in debate. However, Ambassador Sanberk denies that there is a Kurdish problem. His mantra appears to be that there is only a terrorist problem.

If a participant in one of our phone-in programmes did call for "decapitation" of the Turkish prime minister it is likely that he learned of this barbaric practice from pictures of Turkish soldiers holding the decapitated heads of Kurdish guerrillas.

Stop avoiding the issue. Ambassador, I challenge you openly and honestly to debate the issues with me, at a neutral venue and with a mutually agreeable chair. Or is freedom of expression too much to bear? HIKMET TABAK
Managing Director, Med TV
London W1

IN BRIEF

Sir: Having decided that 18- to 21-year-olds need a minimum of £105 a week to live (based on a 35-hour working week), will Mr Blair now agree that pensioners, guaranteed a means-tested £75 a week (or £116.60 for a couple), also require at least that amount, and probably more as their needs may be greater?

Does he realise that approximately 7 million pensioners are now living in poverty as defined in the Treasury report published at the end of March? CLIFFORD FULLER
Gloucester

Sir: The Government is giving BMW £150m ("Rover plant rescued by £150m grant", 1 April). Meanwhile, it sits by while subsidies are reduced to the rail industry and rural services are cut back. On our local line, the weekday service will be reduced from 11-12 trains to 10 at the end of May. Further cuts are expected.

It is no longer a case of rhetoric and no action in implementing the Transport White Paper.

We are seeing positive discrimination in favour of the car. It is difficult to believe there was a change of government two years ago. Dr CLIVE MOWFORTH
Dursley, Gloucestershire

Sir: The ambassador of Turkey, Ozdem Sanberk, complains of prejudice against the Turks. He further displays a sinister ability to forget the recent past.

In 1974 Turkey applied a form of ethnic cleansing on the majority Greek-Cypriot population of Cyprus, very similar to those methods employed by Milosevic in Kosovo. 200,000 people were made refugees in their own country and thousands killed. A 24-hour vigil outside the Turkish embassy in London is a constant reminder to those who care to listen that 1,619 people are still missing.

Despite this obvious breach of international law, the United Nations has remained resolutely toothless. Evidently the division of Cyprus does not cause a strategic, political, or economic crisis worthy of response. PAUL HAMLOS
London N1

Teachers dismayed

Sir: Teachers are dismayed, discouraged and disgusted. Dismayed to discover that the Government has no philosophy of primary education. Training a dog to jump through a series of hoops is not the same as teaching a child. Teachers are educators.

Developing children mentally, physically, morally, emotionally and aesthetically.

Discouraged to find themselves constrained by prescribed numeracy and literacy strategies, designed primarily to raise test scores, not educational standards. If one "crammed" children with an hour of numeracy and literacy five days a week, it would be remarkable if the test scores did not rise. Is this really the sole measure and sum total of educational achievement?

Disgusted by the latest government ploy of offering teachers extra money to "cram" children further after normal school hours. This, surely, is indicative of moral bankruptcy. CHRIS WADSWORTH
London SE4

Right to decide

Sir: I read with interest the piece by Jeremy Laurance on 30 March ("Choosing not to go gently"). I am an octogenarian – my age is nearer 90 than 80 – and I certainly do not want to die just yet, although I had polio when I was a boy of nine and have not been untouched by my advancing age in other respects.

When discussing voluntary euthanasia with people of my own age, we do not find that support for it declines with advancing age. It is inevitable that with advancing years one has more and more often the opportunity to watch physical and mental deterioration and consequent pain and distress, often leading gradually to an agonising end.

I am aware of the very serious arguments against euthanasia. But they lose much of their persuasive power when compared with the cruelty of watching the suffering of an agonising death.

Mr Laurance asks whether pain is a sufficient reason for ending a life. Yes, it is, when it is unbearable and continuous, or almost so, and the condition of the patient is hopeless. Moreover, steadily increasing morphine injections to ease the pain have other disagreeable side effects apart from shortening what is left of the patient's life expectancy.

Incidentally, I have never understood why doctors, when agreeing to shorten a hopelessly suffering patient's life, prefer to withdraw nutrition and hydration to giving a lethal injection; the intention is the same in both cases. Dying because of a lack of food and water is horrible.

The system concerning voluntary euthanasia in the Netherlands may not be perfect, but it does suggest that a humane solution of this harrowing problem is possible.

In the end, I think, the problem is one for the lawyers rather than the doctors. K K SCHILLER
Knutsford, Cheshire

In defence of India

Sir: Paul Valley's article on Oxfam's report on education in poor countries ("Read between the battle lines", 27 March) criticises countries like India for their spending on defence.

Britain, a member of the world's most powerful military alliance, spends more than three times as much on defence (£33bn, or 3 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product, in 1996) as India, with 16 times the population, 13 times the area and very real security concerns on its borders (£10bn, or 2.8 per cent of GDP). (UNDP Human Development Report 1998.)

In the past few weeks Britain has played a prominent role in the Western bombing of two small, relatively poor countries far from its borders (Iraq and Yugoslavia). Given such graphic illustrations of how military power is being used in the post-Cold War world, most Indians would support the need to ensure an adequate defence to deter any potential aggressors.

As far as education is concerned, it was only in a free India that, even as the population more than doubled, the literacy rate tripled, from a paltry 17 per cent at independence – after 190 years of British rule – to 52 per cent by 1991.

Poor states, just as much as rich ones, need to protect their freedom in a dangerous world where might appears to remain right. Dr JAMES CHIRIYANKANDATH
Department of Politics and Modern History
London Guildhall University

Lady of leisure

Sir: According to your article, "Children learn lack of ambition as inequality triples in 30 years" (29 March), Mrs Lippett of Bristol "has never worked".

How would your Social Affairs Correspondent describe looking after a disabled husband and four children on £137 a week? As a leisure activity? SARAH THURSFIELD
Oswestry, Shropshire

Spend a day at the Hot Water Bottle Museum, Wilts

EASTER BANK holiday today! Yes, it's time to get in the car again and wander endlessly up and down the British Isles looking for something to do! Well, wander no more, as today I bring you a helpful list of some of the more off-beat attractions on offer this Eastertide!

The Site of the Battle of Newbury Bypass
John Prescott has recently decided that in the absence of any modern battles on British soil, future generations will be equally fascinated by passages of civil disobedience in the late 20th century. Accordingly, he has declared the area near Newbury, where protesters came to blows with road contractors and their security people, to be a part of the national heritage, and ordered that the site should be preserved

from development. It is open to the public for the first time this Easter holiday weekend.

Scrofula – A Celebration!
There are many bodies dedicated to health, fitness and exercise, but only the Sealed Flask believes in the celebration of ancient plagues and diseases, which they do by re-enacting great epidemics of the past. Today there is a day-long pageant to the famous King's illness. Free health insurance is offered to all paying visitors.

The Fruit Pastille Museum, Cumbria
Believed to be the world's first museum devoted to the art of fruit pastille making, this sweet-toothed cornucopia is housed in an old fruit pastille foundry, which has been dis-

used since 1906 and is now restored to full working order. See the boiling vats of green, orange and yellow fruit treacle! Discover how the pastilles have been made for centuries without the use of wine! Find out why the black pastille is always the most popular, no matter what it tastes of! Open all day for sale of fruit pastilles, also newspapers, cigarettes, ice creams and soft drinks.

The Great Millennium Shropshire Egg-Roll
The traditional egg-rolling ceremony at Winchknock Hill, which has been in abeyance for a century or two, has been revived this year with a modern twist – there will be a contest between those who think that free-range eggs roll best and those who think that the modern



MILES KINGSTON
Find out why black fruit pastilles are always the most popular, no matter what they taste of

battery egg can hold its own in a rolling situation. Separate races for goose eggs, duck eggs etc. and a

special new category this year for ostrich eggs. The afternoon will end with a grand omelette feast.

Vinegar Museum, Kenilworth
Believed to be the world's first museum devoted to the art of vinegar-making, this Midlands treasure-store is housed in an old vinegar mill recently restored to working order. You can taste over a hundred different fruit-flavoured vinegars. The water-powered vinegar wheel will be in use today.

The Real Farm Experience, Begbie Farm, Clackmannon
Hamish Wishart, a Scottish farmer of 40 years standing, is making a stand against all those farm trails and "farm experiences" which claim to give the outsider a taste of farm life. His farm experience is

entirely indoors and clerical, and takes the visitor through three hours of VAT-form filling, quota applications, invoice filing, bank overdraft negotiations and regulation reading. If the visitor gets through that satisfactorily, he may be allowed out into the farm for a short while. Therapists and counsellors on hand.

Police Fun Car Chase Extravaganza
The police are keenly aware that many accidents and road deaths these days are caused by police cars racing to the scenes of other crimes. This is because civilians will insist on getting in the way. So, for this Easter Monday jamboree the police are staging a special series of high-speed chases in which only police cars are involved. They will

be sealing off the back streets of a yet-to-be-named Northern town and squealing round it after each other at speeds in excess of 90mph.

The Hot Water Bottle Museum, near Melksham, Wilts
Believed to be the country's first museum devoted entirely to the history of hot water bottles, this showcase is housed in an old hot water bottle rubber mill, active as recently as 1887 and has been restored to full working order by the Night Comfort Society. There are exotic "bottles" from all around the world, including American examples from the Prohibition days designed to keep illicit moonshine in, and exquisite Japanese bottles which are transparent for the display of miniature tropical fish. Follow the signs to WarmthWorld.

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We must find the stomach for years of war over Kosovo

WILL IT be over by Christmas? Since Vietnam, we in the West have grown used to short wars. The Falklands war in 1982 was over in two-and-a-half months. The ground war in the Gulf in 1991 famously lasted just 100 hours after a six-week aerial bombardment. However, Kosovo is different. The Prime Minister's statements over the weekend that Nato's goal is to return the Kosovo Albanians to their homes, to "defeat Milosevic", and to "do what it takes, for as long as it takes", were astonishingly direct. And when his spokesman suggests that the war may go on for four years, it is obvious that we are entering a potentially long haul.

Yet Britain and its Nato partners are fearfully unprepared for a long and bloody European war. Militarily, Nato has been gearing up for some time for air strikes. But if the Kosovo Albanians are to be returned to their homeland against the will of Serbian forces, troops will be needed on the ground. Tony Blair has not ruled out the use of ground troops (despite much reporting to the contrary), but neither has he started to build up the forces needed to fight a land war.

Mr Blair's strategy for forcing the Serbs to end the terror in Kosovo, outlined yesterday, is to "make Milosevic pay a higher and higher price, day by day, until he does so". But what if he does not? And how high can the price be if Nato air strikes continue to be careful to minimise civilian casualties? The threat of air strikes did not work. The intensification of the strikes, especially if they consist of the accurate targeting of empty interior ministry buildings, seems unlikely to be any more successful.

The public in the West is unprepared too, despite opinion polls showing increasing support for the use of ground troops. That is an understandable reaction to pictures of the lost souls in the Macedonian mists. The focus groups will say: "Something must be done." But if significant British casualties are to be sustained, the country will need to be motivated by something more durable than a tug at the heartstrings.

That is why the Prime Minister's words over the weekend were right and necessary, although his blazing moral certainty - "a battle between good and evil" - was jolting, even scary. It should have been made clearer to the people earlier that there never was any point getting into this business, if we were not prepared to see it through.

There is only one consistent, morally defensible position that is opposed to this war, and that is what might be called the Alan Clark isolationist position, which is that the Kosovo Albanians should have been left to their fate, because the United Kingdom's national interest is not at stake. But that was not right in Bosnia and it is not right



'FAILURE OF IMAGINATION'

Good teachers deserve to be paid more

TEACHERS SHOULD be paid more. With so many of the profession trapped under a pay ceiling of about £23,000 a year, this is one of those truths universally acknowledged. Sadly, the National Union of Teachers ignores another universal truth - that quality in too much of the profession is unacceptably low. One of the reasons for putting up teachers' pay is to attract more able people. Most teachers, of course, are talented and do a good job in difficult conditions. But the suggestion by Chris Woodhead, the unpopular chief inspector of schools, that 15,000 teachers should be sacked, while tactless, was not unjustified.

The simplest solution, then, would be to sack 15,000 teachers and pay the rest more. Unfortunately, that would leave a serious shortage until recruitment picked up. So

the Government is trying a more gradual way - tying £1bn in pay rises over the next two years to performance. The NUT complains performance-related pay is "divisive". Well, any separation into good and better is divisive. Promotion is divisive. Life is divisive. At least David Blunkett's scheme will allow good teachers to earn up to £35,000 and stay where they are needed - in the classroom.

Beware the B word

AN INTERNAL BBC memo says the word "British" needs to be used with care once Scotland has its own parliament and Wales its assembly. Was the author a closet Unionist, a subversive humorist, or both? The implication is that the BBC should be known as the BC, just as our leading telecoms company should be T. But if it means the end of the inane fashion for prefacing conglomerates and quangos with the B word, this can only be a good thing.

The battle for public opinion may yet prove Nato's toughest test

HERE WAS a strange scene last Wednesday in the unlikely - and uncomfortably public - setting of Westminster's Atrium restaurant, in which George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, was giving an off-the-record briefing on the war in Serbia to some heavy hitting members of the US Congress. Mr Robertson is a man of impressive calm, as the traumatic events of the last fortnight have proved. But even he was a little rattled to be asked by two of the visitors, a Republican and a Democrat, why Britain had not been more inclined to send ground troops to the Balkan theatre.

He did not let it show, contenting himself only with pointing out that he had thought that it was in Washington that resistance to the dispatch of ground troops was the strongest. There are over ten times as many British troops in Macedonia as there are Americans.

The exchange becomes all the more significant in the light of Tony Blair's dramatic promise on Saturday that he would not halt his action against Serbia until the refugees had been successfully returned to their homeland in Kosovo.

The wide - and almost certainly correct - inference from his remarks has been that the Prime Minister was preparing public opinion for the prospect of a much longer haul than it has so far been given to expect. But there was another, closely related, reason for his unscheduled broadcast.

The Nato allies are now bracing themselves for a second offer - whether you choose to put quotation



DONALD MACINTYRE
Another so-called peace offer from Slobodan Milosevic is thought to be on the way

tors come in. The problems of assembling a ground force sufficiently great to enter Serbian territory with even a hope of success have not suddenly disappeared. Of these problems, the strong resistance in Washington certainly remains one of the most formidable.

The others include the difficulties of reaching agreement among all the Nato allies to provide a force which could do it. When negotiations with Milosevic finally broke down, not even the 30,000 troops that would have been needed to enforce the peace envisaged at Rambouillet had been accounted for. That figure of 30,000 was much less than would be needed to go in if war was still being waged.

That, and the notorious physical difficulties of the path into Kosovo through Macedonia, all need to be

taken into account before the commitment of land forces.

The destruction of another bridge at Novi Sad in northern Yugoslavia, on the direct route from the Hungarian border to Belgrade must have made some Serbian generals wonder whether the allies were contemplating invasion from Hungary, now a Nato member. But that would mean an almost unthinkable dangerous land war on so far peaceful territory. And so on. Nevertheless, my sense is that, while ministers - after taking stock of the first fortnight - will not yet commit to large scale ground forces, they will not be so emphatic in ruling out the long-term possibility either.

One view, easily the most optimistic, is that, if and as the weather clears, much more precision bombing will begin to have its effect in Belgrade as well as in Kosovo. Some of the power elite, including the possibly doubting generals - warned daily by Mr Robertson via CNN - may revolt, fearing a summons to appear before the international court in the Hague if they blindly follow Milosevic's barbaric orders. Many of those who know the Balkans well fear this may underestimate the patriotic bunker mentality in Belgrade. Moreover the regime in Montenegro, the one Western-friendly part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, is gravely at risk.

The other growing view is that bombing alone, even with improved weather, will not achieve its goal. Given the length of time it would take to assemble a ground force, that would mean more domestic problems than so far envisaged, and not

only the outstanding one of British military casualties. The economic costs of the war would spiral. And there remains the problem of refugees.

If the Macedonian government continues to refuse entry from Kosovo to those without hope of admission to a third country, then Britain and other European countries may have to welcome them. Ministers do not want this to happen, because refugees soon become quasi-economic migrants unwilling to return to a wrecked, if finally peaceful former Yugoslavia. Which is where the idea, floated by Robin Cook, for UN-protected refugee zones in the neighbouring countries comes in. But if that doesn't work you can hardly bomb to save the refugees and then let them die in camps, or worse, trying to reach the border.

So the choices ahead are tougher than they looked two weeks ago. Yet the resolve of the British Cabinet seems to be remarkably firm. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, and one of those who might have been thought to have doubts, has sensibly been brought into the informal de facto war cabinet that meets daily. Moreover, the new international factor is the unexpected firmness of Germany.

But ministers throughout Nato will have to do even more to prepare public opinion for the consequences of not bringing Milosevic to his knees in the first few days of bombing. It looked at one point that Easter would be the moment that would determine whether the war would be lost or long. In London the view is that it has not been lost, but that it may be long.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
"Peace is possible, peace is a duty, peace is a prime responsibility of everyone."
Pope John Paul II at his Easter mass, which he dedicated to peace in the Balkans

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
"Where are the songs of spring? Ay, where are they?"
John Keats
English poet

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
The Sunday newspapers reflect on the conflict in the Balkans

A CLEAR political objective must now be spelled out for this action. While removing Slobodan Milosevic altogether would be preferable, this is unthinkable without the commitment of a major ground assault force which could take up to six months to assemble.

Scotland on Sunday

THE GOVERNMENT says it is ready for a protracted war, a determination which presumably reflects the mood in Nato headquarters. But, though it is premature to write off in advance the possibility of defeating Milosevic through bombing alone, prudence suggests that the planners should be working to assemble ground forces large enough to frustrate what is left of the Serbian killing machine after prolonged attrition from the air.

The Mail on Sunday

TONY BLAIR has not ruled out committing ground troops. If it

is the right thing to do, and the only way to win the war, then we must. Nato must stand firm.

In the end, if the good the war does outweighs the harm it causes to innocent people,

then it is justified, however painful.

The Sunday Mirror

THE ONLY way to ensure victory is for there to be a massive

intervention - in several months' time if necessary - and in defiance of threats from the Russians.

That will inevitably mean losses, but it may well be the only way of securing victory and preserving a form of peace for the long term.

The Sunday Times

THE ONLY solution, both strategically and ethically, is to get the Kosovans back into Kosovo. That cannot be done

without using more force than bombing can provide. It requires troops on the ground in Kosovo.

The Sunday Telegraph

THE COMMITMENT of ground troops cannot be delayed much longer. Today, it is "not the present intention".

Tomorrow, or some time soon, it is going to become a very real prospect. (Andrew Rawnsley)

The Observer

How to be a top notch jobber

Women in decision-making posts need to concentrate not just on so-called "women's issues", but on a tax and expenditure pattern that narrows inequalities and provides basic public services.

Poverty continues to be the greatest enemy of social justice and of equality.

The last frontier is global. As the world passes through recession, those social services that protect and enhance human potential - education and public health - need to be safeguarded. Compulsory primary education is the key to literacy and to equal opportunities as well.

Women bring fresh values to politics. Where they play a large part in shaping the culture of public life, as in Scandinavia, politics begin to change. Look at the participation of women in politics in countries characterised by the violent abuse of power - Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Cambodia - and you see that in these countries the participation of women is minimal. Our voices should be heard. In a world wracked by violence and by poverty, we cannot abandon the struggle.

We have lost this foolish war



ROBERT FISK
Instead of admitting the truth about this conflict, our leaders have consistently lied to us

IT HAS all gone horribly wrong. Indeed, if the initial objectives are recalled, then we have already lost this war. And it is not only the tragedy of Biblical proportions on the Balkan mountainsides that proves the futility of what we have done. Nato, remember, was supposed to stand by the Rambouillet peace accords, force Slobodan Milosevic to accept limited autonomy for Kosovo and end the slaughter and "ethnic cleansing" of the Kosovo Albanians. Then Nato troops were to move into Kosovo in order to protect the Muslim Albanian and Serb populations.

And what has happened?

Rambouillet is in ashes. Serbia is refusing to budge after 13 days and nights of air raids. Those we pledged to protect are being driven from their homes in the greatest act of depopulation in Europe since 1945. The 12,000 soldiers who were meant to look after the Kosovo Albanians are now doing just that – but in the wrong country, Macedonia. The Serb civilians of Kosovo, whom they were also meant to protect, are now being bombed by us. The destabilisation of the southern Balkans, which we went to war to prevent, is now well underway.

And, instead of admitting the truth, our leaders consistently lie.

At first, we were told that the Serb leader would be forced to end the "ethnic cleansing". The opposite has happened and now we are told – by Robin Cook, no less – that Milosevic will be made to "pay the price", which is not the same thing at all. Nato promised to attack only military targets and, for as long as it thought it could, crack the Serb military, that is what it did. But now it is doing just what the Americans did in Iraq – spreading the war to civilian targets, to bridges and electricity stations and factories and refineries, under the spurious excuse that these are also of use to the military. Of course they are – just as roads and railway tracks and water mains are of use to the military. And as we get more desperate, they may well be the next target.

This was never an operation that was planned for only two or three days," Nato's spokesman James Shea told us on 26 March.

Really? So why were we not told this before we went to war? Why



A group of ethnic Albanian refugees struggling to survive on the Macedonian border *John Voos*

were we not told of the possibility of weeks of air raids and the wholesale abandonment of the Albanian civilian population of Kosovo if Milosevic did not give in? Why do we only now learn about the prospect of a "long war", perhaps lasting four years? And why, for God's sake, did no one – not President Clinton, not NATO's Secretary General Solana, nor Robin Cook, nor General Wesley Clark – realise the bombing must be supported by ground troops?

How on earth did Clark come to believe that the Serbs would give up so easily? Did he mistake the Yugoslav army for the Serb militias of Bosnia? Did he think that bullies are always cowards and will therefore give in? Did he not realise that only a real threat of ground invasion might force Milosevic to agree to the Rambouillet accords in time?

Over the past two weeks, we have been told other lies: that it would have been even worse if Nato had not bombed Serbia – and that we knew Milosevic had planned the total "ethnic cleansing" of the Kosovo Albanian population before we went to war. Clearly, the first statement – from President Clinton himself – is rubbish.

With Serb paramilitaries

butchering their way across Kosovo and poised to drive out every last Albanian, it could not possibly be worse. And if we knew that Milosevic had planned this, why did Nato not provide fighting ground troops in those precious weeks following the original Rambouillet conference?

In the past few days, our defence analysts have been hard at work to explain the continued war. Not only is it intended to make Milosevic "pay the price" for his brutality, but any faltering now would damage the credibility of Nato itself. You bet it would. Almost two weeks ago, we thought we had gone to war to save the Kosovo Albanians. Now it turns out that we are at war to save Nato. And yes, yesterday was Nato's 50th birthday, marked by a blazing oil refinery, an electricity station burning itself out in northern Belgrade and hundred of thousands of Kosovo Albanians freezing on the mountainsides of Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia.

We should not be surprised. We asked the Kurds and the Shia Muslims of Iraq to rise up against Saddam Hussein in 1991 and, when they did as they were told, we abandoned them to the torture chambers of Iraq. This time, we asked the

Kosovo Albanians to sign the peace accords in Paris and praised the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). Now they are on the run, we can do no more than bomb the Serbs from the air.

There was a telling moment last week when a senior RAF officer stood up at Nato's regular briefing to tell journalists that the KLA "has not been defeated" but was "regrouping" in order to "take up the armed struggle" once again. What is this nonsense?

That a Nato officer should seek to support the KLA in such a way proved two terrifying things: to the Serbs, that the KLA was a fifth column (and thus worthy only of execution); and to us, that Nato now regards this ragtag bunch of ill-disciplined ex-Marxists as its foot-soldiers in Kosovo. The substitute army for the Nato soldiers who will not be sent into Serbia.

The Nato briefings become ever more sinister. At each one, a new and ever more ghoulish story is produced for journalists – the mass execution of intellectuals one day, the rape of young women the next, the killing of fathers and sons in front of their families, the setting up of concentration camps. These stories may well turn out to be true

- I suspect the truth may be worse - but the effect is pornography-by-press-conference, with spokesmen "Jamie" Shea acting as the East End club doorman touting the evening's horror story and his RAF colleague playing the role of manager, promising us that the show will go on.

And so it will until every last Kosovo Albanian has been driven from his home, or until M15 or the CIA engineer the secession of Montenegro or the overthrow of Milosevic. And all the while, the promises continue: "We shall attack his murderous forces in Kosovo; we shall strike at the nerve centres of his decision-making machine" (British Armed Forces Minister Doug Henderson). Nato is showing "unflinching resolve" in the battle against the "unbelievably brutal actions of Milosevic's special police and army" (Air Marshal Sir John Day).

Tony Blair is suggesting that the Serb leader may face a war crimes indictment. Do they think Milosevic will be frightened by all this? After his supporters killed and raped their way through far more Muslims in Bosnia than they have in Kosovo, we treated him as a peacemaker. He was invited to the

Dayton conference, he was regarded by Washington and by the Foreign Office as "a force for stability in the Balkans" (as Saddam was in Iraq after he invaded Iran). Milosevic was one of "our" dictators – or at least a man with whom we could do business.

But now he has joined our list of "beasts" – we remember Saddam and Gaddafi although, oddly, Osama bin Laden has dropped off our Satanic radar screens for the present. We believe Milosevic can be "defanged" or "decadwed," or that we can, in the words of the *Sun* on the first day of the war: "Clobber Slobsa".

Alas, history is not like that. Nato thought that within three days of its bombing campaign, it would have 200,000 Serbs on the streets of Belgrade demanding Milosevic's removal. Instead, tens of thousands of Serbs now gather on those streets for daily pop concerts to demonstrate their hatred of Nato.

There are many words to encompass the events of the last 13 days: brutality, vanity, arrogance. But above all, folly is the word that comes to mind. Maybe we will find another persecuted population to "protect" next year.

They had better watch out.

RIGHT OF REPLY

IAN
GREENWOOD



**Bradford Council's
leader responds to
Ann Treneman's
article on the
Ravenscliffe estate**

THE VAST majority of residents on the Ravenscliffe estate are decent, law-abiding citizens. However, there are a small number of people who do make life difficult for their neighbours, and they are the ones the new anti-social behaviour orders are designed to deal with.

Many residents are working closely with Bradford Council and the police to improve the quality of life on the estate. There is also a whole range of initiatives already in place on this estate and in other parts of Bradford, and these are helping to tackle the problems of anti-social behaviour and crime.

Among these are our tenancy enforcement and mediation teams, which have received national recognition for their work.

we also have an equally successful anti-crime partnership with the police. The drop in crime on the Ravenscliffe speaks for itself – the number of burglaries is well below the district average. In the last year we have been working with other agencies to make the area a place people want to live in, and this year 118 new tenants have already moved on to the estate.

Ravenscliffe was also chosen to pioneer a Safer Estate Agreement – a joint initiative designed to cut vandalism and crime through an increased police presence and investment in door and window locks, burglar alarms and other security measures. The aim is to improve people's lives by making them feel more secure in their homes.

We are in a strong position to cope with the new powers because we have successful tenancy enforcement and mediation teams and a good relationship with the police. And we are already working with local communities through the council's neighbourhood forums and residents' groups.

A dinosaur and other animals

GERALD DURRELL had good fortune in nearly everything. True, he didn't have a father, which may have been why he was a three-wheeled wagon. But there was something in the air in the Fifties which made his accounts of animal collecting, and especially *My Family and Other Animals*, his 1956 reminiscence of a pre-war Corfu childhood, very welcome and recognisable. Perhaps it was mostly that the post-war world needed romance.

John Minton's illustrations on the covers of Penguin books of the period capture it: golden boys in striped jerseys.



MONDAY BOOK

GERALD DURRELL: THE AUTHORISED BIOGRAPHY
BY DOUGLAS BOTTING HARPERCOLLINS £34.99

seys with bare feet on sun-baked Mediterranean boat-decks were as much a part of Elizabeth David cookery books as they were of Durrell's blissfully unschooled childhood.

Gerald's work appealed to the same sensibility as that of John Bejerman and John Piper, and indeed his brother, Lawrence. Later, part of the appeal may have been a nostalgia for what were taken to be Edwardian certainties, while all around a feverish social shift was going on.

Durrell was a pre-Beatle figure all his life, as Douglas Botting makes plain in this huge book about a man who began his life as a slim and harum-scarum figure, but towards the end was huge and intermittently pathetic. But he was lucky to have been born into a family which took eccentricity as the norm. Lucky to have decamped with them to Corfu when he was a bug-infested, bug-interested boy. Lucky to have met a true Edwardian gentleman naturalist-scholar there.

And he also was lucky in his two wives. The first, Jacqueline, was perfect when he was immature but busy and needed organising. His second, Lee, seems to have been ideal when his activities badly needed an element of academic respectability, which she could provide. She just about saw this charismatic dinosaur of a man into the modern world.

Durrell was also fortunate in his admiring official biographer. Botting gives us a full-on Durrell, with just enough of the rages and the insecurity and the bad jokes and the love

doggerel and the mammoth selfishness to be real. An unofficial writer might easily have taken this material and delivered a hatchet-job.

But this book doesn't reach the heart of the problems with, and the probable enduring interest of, Gerald Durrell. He is up there with David Attenborough, Peter Scott, Konrad Lorenz and even - very differently - Peter Singer as one of the people who shaped the way we see animals. In his case, there is a dash of the Edward Lear to go along with the ethology and ecology which is more truly of this age.

Durrell was interested in animals, obviously. However, he wasn't really very interesting about them. For a start, his descriptions of them are anthropomorphic. Perhaps only by making them comic could he make the money with which to save them, but his private letters portray them in the same way.

Like most naturalists, Durrell was weak in his approach to human affairs. Botting shows us that he raved on, in rather the Prince of Wales way, about the ravages wrought by man. Yet he was at the very top of the planet's food chain. A carnivorous jet-setter, his anger, which seems to have comprised little self-criticism, was humbug.

It may be that Botting doesn't get into these issues because his subject didn't either. But, if Durrell did not, we are free to conclude that he was essentially a shallow man. It seems safe to assume that Durrell believed what is no longer fashionable: that animals are amusing and useful, as well as interesting and moving. But even



Gerald Durrell started out as an unschooled golden boy *BBC*

this matter-of-fact approach could not save him from the abiding mistake of our time - to glamorize the natural at the expense of thinking about people. Durrell is attractively anthropocentric and vastly sociable, but his conservation thinking is modish and lazily misanthropic.

The book's most glaring omission is to give us no sense of whether Durrell's conservation work mattered very much. We do hear a little about the breeding success at his zoo on Jersey with many of the species Durrell collected so bravely and entertainingly. We hear a bit about the training work his trust undertakes with conservationists in the Third World. We are told clearly enough that Durrell himself was kept too busy writing and fund-

raising to have much to do with developing this work. But there is little about whether there have been many re-introductions from Jersey into the wild. There is little about the ethical value of conserving species only in a zoo, like paintings in a gallery.

Douglas Eotting has given us a wonderfully detailed account of an amateur naturalist, animal collector and humorist who built a zoo and a conservation trust out of enthusiasm. The emotional problems of the man are laid bare, though sympathetically. But one wearies of the blow-by-blow account of drinking, travelling and loving, and longs for a discussion of whether Durrell was an important - let alone an intelligent - conservationist.

RICHARD D NORTH

**THE INDEPENDENT
PHOTOGRAPH**



Elves in Oak Tree in Kensington Gardens
by David Rose Ref. 00113

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Lionel Bart

IF HE had written only *Oliver!*, the composer Lionel Bart would have earned an honoured place in the history of British musicals, but he was far from a one-show wonder. His other work included shows such as *Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'Be* and *Maggie May*, plus many pop songs including "Living Doll" (Cliff Richard's first No 1 hit), Tommy Steele's "A Handful of Songs", Anthony Newley's "Do You Mind?" and Matt Monro's "From Russia With Love".

He epitomised the start of the Sixties in Britain, which he uniquely captured in song and spirit, and he was one of the few composers to deal uncondescendingly with the working classes, transposing their life styles and vernacular to the musical stage.

"Nobody tries to be la-de-da or up-pity, there's a cuppa tea for all," sings the Artful Dodger to Oliver, while *Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'Be* remains a time capsule of a world in which folk talked of their "birds" and their "manor" and dreamed of being able to afford furniture that was "contemporary". It was like a musical *EastEnders*, but far more joyous and celebratory without the unremitting angst suffered by the inhabitants of Albert Square.

Bart also epitomised the Sixties in a less happy way - like many who flourished in that era he was seduced by sudden success into a world of drink, drugs and hedonism, squandering his money and his youth.

Bart was one of the 11 children of an East End tailor. He was born Lionel Begleiter, in 1930, and he had no formal musical training. He displayed a flair for drawing, however, which brought him at the age of 16 a scholarship to the St Martin's School of Art in London. (His bus journey, which took him each day past St Bartholomew's Hospital, inspired him to adopt Bart as his professional surname.) He worked in a silk-screen printing works and commercial art studios before an attraction to the theatre brought him work at the left-wing Unity Theatre, where he worked as a set painter. He started writing songs in response to a sign asking for musical material for one of the theatre's productions. Unable to write music, he would tap out the melody with one finger and someone else would orchestrate it.

It was a time when popular music was undergoing a drastic transformation due to the influence of such stars as Elvis Presley and Bill Haley, and Bart was one of many musicians and singers (most of them Presley-influenced) who frequented the 21's coffee shop in Soho, where he met the rock singer Tommy Steele. With Michael Pratt and Steele, Bart wrote Steele's first hit, "Rock with the Caveman" (1957), and later that year Bart won three Ivor Novello Awards, presented by the Songwriters Guild, for outstanding song of the year ("A Handful of Songs"), best novelty song ("Water, Water") and outstanding film score (The Tommy Steele Story).

Another habitue of the 21's was a cherubic youngster named Harry Webb, and when he named his first film, *Serious Charge* (with his new name Cliff Richard), it was Bart who provided the songs, including "Living Doll", which topped the Hit Parade for eight weeks. (Bart claimed that he wrote the song in six minutes on a Sunday morning.) The same year Bart wrote a complete musical, *Wally Pone of Soho*, based on Ben Jonson's *Volpone*, but could not get it produced, but Joan Littlewood, who had been a producer at the Unity and was now running the enterprising Theatre Workshop in Stratford, London, asked him to provide the music and lyrics for a new musical written by a former convict, Frank Norman. *Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'Be*.

Bart and Norman complemented each other beautifully and produced a brash, funny, unpretentious working-class musical. Blessed with a cast aptly assembled by Littlewood, including Miriam Karlin, Barbara Windsor, James Booth, Yootha Joyce, Toni Palmer and George Sewell (who was to play Bill Sykes in *Oliver!*), it played to packed houses and eventually moved to the Garrick Theatre in the West End, where it ran for two years. Bart's ingratiating score included an infectious (if derivative) title tune, a Presley-type rock number "Big Time" (recorded by Adam Faith) and a plaintive lament for a prostitute, "Where Do Little Birds Go?", delivered with a show-stopping guilelessness by Windsor, who credited the number with changing her life and career.

Like Norman's libretto, Bart's songs perfectly captured a time of change - of the Wolfenden Report, massage parlours replacing street-corner pick-ups, and a time when "ordinary people" had started going to Paris for the weekend instead of Southend.

Later in 1959 Bart had another success when *Lock Up Your Daughters*, a musical version of Henry Fielding's *Rape Upon Rape*, opened at the Mermaid with lyrics by Bart to Laurie Johnson's music. He had also provided songs for Tommy Steele's film *Tommy the Toreador* and at the end of the year won four Ivor Novello Awards - for the year's best-selling song ("Living Doll"), the outstanding score of the year (*Lock Up Your Daughters*), outstanding novelty song ("Little White Bull") and a special award for "outstanding personal services to British music".

Bart was now on the threshold of the biggest success of his life. Based on a much-loved Dickens novel, and Bart for the first time providing his own libretto as well as music and lyrics, *Oliver!* seemed far from a certain success - a dozen managements had turned it down - but its first night at the New Theatre (now the Albery) on 30 June 1960 was something that none of us present will ever forget. Of British musicals, only Sandy Wilson's *The Boy Friend*, which premiered seven years earlier, could be said to have had such a roof-raising, rapturous reception in the last half-century.

The show received 23 curtain-calls, and Bart's score was lauded next day for its richness and variety,



Bart: 'I'm not a composer. I just make songs and sing them'

to Bart, to call him a "silly bugger" for mis-handling his finances. Bart himself would later place some of the blame on his upbringing. "My father gambled," he said, "and there were endless arguments about it. I hated money and had no respect for it. My attitude was to spend it as I got it."

Though there may be some truth in this, Bart's friends attest to his constantly altering the facts of his childhood and frequently taking liberties with the truth. When he was looking for a writer to help ghost his memoirs, several noted authors turned him down, one of them telling me bluntly, "He's such a liar!"

The American composer Richard Rodgers, who had not found a permanent lyricist partner since the death of Oscar Hammerstein, asked Bart to collaborate with him, but Bart refused and for his next show chose a subject close to his heart, the way *East Enders* could with air-raids in World War II. *Blitz!* (Bart had a fondness for exclamation points in his titles) was a gargantuan production which never quite jelled

for an EP and it won the Novello Award as outstanding score of the year and the Critics' Poll as best new British musical.

Bart was by now experimenting with LSD and other drugs and was drinking heavily. By the late Seventies his drinking had brought on diabetes and by the time he managed to quit alcohol it had destroyed one-third of his liver. Much of his income was being dissipated, according to his friends, by his generosity to hangers-on and by the ease with which casual sex partners could rob him. (Though known in the profession to be gay, it was not until the Nineties that Bart described himself as "out at last".) His career reached a low point in 1965 with his musical about Robin Hood which he backed with a fortune of his own money. *Tugboat* was a short-lived disaster and to finance it Bart had rashly sold his rights to *Oliver!* He later estimated that relinquishing those rights lost him over a million pounds.

In 1968 Carol Reed's film version of *Oliver!* opened and was a huge success, winning several Oscars including Best Picture, plus nominations for Ron Moody (the original Fagin repeating his fine performance) and Jack Wild (as the Artful Dodger). Bart's score was kept virtually intact, and the soundtrack album was a best-seller. Columbia, the studio financing the film, had wanted an internationally known star (Peter Sellers) in the lead, but Reed and Bart fought to keep Moody. Their choice of Shirley Bassey to play Nancy was vetoed by the studio, who felt that if Bill Sykes was shown killing a black girl it could offend some audiences.

Four years after *Twang!*, a new show by Bart was produced. Based on the Fellini film *La Strada*, it was staged on Broadway where it ran for only one night, though Bart never gave up on it and was working on plans for a revival at the time of his death. He also wrote the score for a television version of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* starring Kirk Douglas (never shown in Britain) and an unproduced stage musical, *Quasimodo* based on *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. In a 1995 interview with *The Independent*, Bart recalled that he sent some of the script for *Quasimodo* to Noël Coward, who said, "Brilliant, dear boy, but were you on drugs when you wrote it? It seems a bit abstract here and there." "I suppose it was," said Bart.

In 1972 Bart declared himself bankrupt - he had debts totalling £73,000. In 1975 he was banned for a year for driving under the influence of drink, and in 1983 banned again for two years. Regarding the changes in the style of musical theatre, he told the musical historian Mark Steyn that he would never have written a through-sung musical because

in my case it would be slightly pretentious. I'm not a composer. I just make tunes and sing them, and I sing harmonies, and some of my chord progressions are not logical, but often they work. For *Oliver!* I thought in terms of people's walks. The *Oliver* theme was really the Beadle's walk, a kind of dum-de-dum... Fagin's music was like a Jewish mother clucking away. But I don't want to get high-falutin' about it. Music is important, fair enough. But just to have some kind of drab tune fitted to even more drab dialogue seems rather pointless to me.

Though Bart's final years were unproductive to a 30-second commercial for the Abbey National Building Society was his most notable achievement of the last decade, and he could be exasperatingly demanding of his friends, he was

equable about his change in fortunes - he once had homes in London, New York, Malibu and Tangiers but had been living in a small flat in Acton, Cameron Mackintosh, who successfully revived *Oliver!* at the London Palladium in 1994 and gave him a percentage of the profits, said, "Of all the people I know in this business who have had ups and downs, Lionel is the least bitter man I have ever come across. He regrets it, but, considering that everyone else has made millions out of his creations, he's never been sour, never been vindictive."

Andrew Lloyd Webber said, "Lionel's genius has in my view never been fully recognised by the British establishment. The loss to British musical theatre caused by his untimely death is incalculable."

TOM VALLANCE

Lionel Begleiter (Lionel Bart), composer, lyricist and playwright; born London 1 August 1930; died London 3 April 1999.

Andrew Gardner

AS ONE of the two newscasters seen on *News at Ten*'s first night in 1967, Andrew Gardner helped to shape the programme that became a British institution for more than 30 years, until its demise last month.

His newscasting partner that night was Alastair Burnet although it was the irrepressible Reginald Bosanquet - of the hairpiece and precarious delivery - with whom viewers associated Gardner most. The pair had a rapport that Bosanquet put down to their diverse personalities and they gained a reputation for "bouncing off" one another. "Andrew always exercised restraint upon my natural ebullience and I always had the capacity to make him laugh," wrote Bosanquet in his 1980 autobiography, *Let's Get Through Wednesday: my 25 years with ITN*.

During his own 18 years with Independent Television News, the 5ft 5in-tall Gardner was noted for his dependability and unflappable nature, praised by Bosanquet for being "always in control, always authoritative and the master of handling anything that went wrong".

Recalling his own difficulty in pronouncing some foreign place names, Bosanquet asserted:

Andrew Gardner has no such problem. His technique is to sail right into such conundrums, giving every appearance of being completely at ease with the word, and then he is so quickly on to the next topic that nobody has the time to ponder about whether or not he has got it right. But, damn him, he invariably has!

Gardner and Bosanquet also innovated the technique of turning and talking to one another as the final credits rolled on *News at Ten*. *TV Times* magazine even ran a picture competition in which readers were asked to write in the balloons what they thought each was saying.

Presenting the news came to Gardner after gaining his reporting credentials in the hot-spot of Africa in the 1950s. Born in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, in 1932, and educated at Dauntsey's School, Wiltshire, he became a radio journalist in the Central African Federation in 1957, covering Africa extensively and becoming one of the first reporters in the Congo during the 1960 massacres.

Returning to Britain in 1961, Gardner worked as a freelance reporter and scriptwriter for BBC radio and appeared in the BBC television programme *Table Talk* before joining ITN later that year on a freelance basis as a reporter and newscaster.

Since its inception in 1955 at the start of British commercial television, ITN had led the way in television news and, before the start of *News at Ten*, also broadcast current affairs programmes. This enabled Gardner to present *Rooting Report* (1957-67) and *Dateline* (1961-67), as well as *Reporting '66* and *Reporting '67*. He also hosted the first transatlantic programme broadcast from America to Western Europe by the Telsior 1 satellite, in 1962.

When *News at Ten* was launched on 3 July 1967 as Britain's first half-hour news programme, with two newscasters, many ITV company bosses forecast disaster and scheduled it for just 12 weeks. The programme's first broadcast, on a slow news day, meant that it failed to gain an immediate impact and Gardner admitted that it was "the worst possible night that any television journalist could ever imagine in their wildest nightmare".



Gardner: *News at Ten*

However, two days later, an on-the-spot report by Alan Hart on the Argyl and Sutherland Highlanders' retaking of the Crater district from the rebels in Aden, full of action, tension and danger, was run for 11 minutes. This affirmed the decision to present the day's news in depth and soon, viewers were tuning in to the programme in their millions. In one week in August 1969, all five week-day editions of *News at Ten* were among television's 10 most popular programmes and it became as much a permanent fixture in the ITV schedule as *Coronation Street*. Throughout his time with ITN, Gardner was also a royal commentator, for Princess Anne's wedding to Captain Mark Phillips and the Queen's Silver Jubilee events, as well as appearing in general election programmes.

He left ITN in 1977, when Thames Television - the ITV weekday franchise holder for the London area - lured him away to take over Eamonn Andrews's job of presenting its flagship regional daily news magazine *Today*, which became *Thames at 6* and, later, *Thames News*. His authority did much to hold together a programme notoriously difficult to make - one in which the capital's news sometimes blended with events of interest to a national audience.

He was heard on the ITN network again as one of the team covering the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales, but retired from Thames Television before it broadcast its last programmes in 1992, and was replaced by Carlton.

Despite his departure from ITN, Gardner remained a loyal supporter of the television news organisation and was one of those on hand to accept a special award presented to it by the Broadcasting Press Guild last month to mark *News at Ten*'s contribution to television.

ANTHONY HAYWARD

Andrew Gardner was extraordinarily self-effacing, writes Julian Machin. But his famous face, rising higher than any viewer could imagine when he stood up from his newscaster's desk, in reality fitted less into the television and more into the world of any other broadcaster of his time.

He wasn't starchy, he may not always have been comfortable with his fame, but he was so full of Libran charm that he reassured people over their perception of him as a public figure. In fact he was tremendously private; a man devoted to his wife Margaret, with whom he always seemed to be best friends and to his four sons, to the family dogs and to the shaping of their beautiful home. However, to all the people in the street, in restaurants, aboard cross-channel ferries (heading for one of his preferred caravan holidays), who regularly accosted him, he was never less than courteous. He said that it was to the public that he owed the comforts of his existence and that it was only fair to acknowledge them where he could.

He was considerate beyond the norm. Once on the journey to Thames Television when his driver stopped at the gents' on Greenwich Hill, Andrew got out to stretch his long legs. The driver returned, failed to notice his important passenger was a few yards up the hill, drove away and left him surrounded by a class of enthusiastic schoolchildren. He asked them where they were going and when they replied "The Cutty Sark" he immediately said, "Then I'll come with you", making their day.

He bridged the gap between celebrity and private individual so judiciously it was hard to imagine that his media position might trouble him at all. While he was devoted to doing his job well, he seemed happiest in retirement from television, buying antiques, planning home-improvements holidays and engagements with his burgeoning family.

Andrew Gardner, television newscaster and reporter; born Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire 25 September 1932; married Margaret Drain (four sons); died in flight en route to Madeira 2 April 1999.

Oliver! was like a musical *EastEnders*, but more joyous and celebratory, without the unremitting angst of Albert Square

from rousing show-stoppers like "Consider Yourself" and "T'd Do Anything" to the character songs such as Fagin's "Pick a Pocket or Two" and "Reviewing the Situation", and Nancy's "It's a Fine Life" and the torchy ballad "As Long As He Needs Me". (Bart later said that, when composing his songs, he always thought of Judy Garland singing them.) It won Novello Awards for outstanding score of the year, outstanding song of the year and best-selling song (the last two both for "As Long As He Needs Me"). *Oliver!* ran for 2,618 performances in London, and was a hit on Broadway where it opened in 1963 and ran for 774 performances, winning Bart a Tony Award.

Bart was said to be earning £16 a minute from *Oliver!* in 1960 and his life style reflected his wealth. He entertained vigorously, his friends including Noel Coward, Brian Epstein, Judy Garland, Alma Cogan and Shirley Bassey, and he spent weekends in Mustique with Princess Margaret, who was later, according

(Bart directed the show) and its score was less inspired than that of *Oliver!*, though it had a show-stopping children's chorus, "Mums and Dads", and Bart persuaded Vera Lynn to record for the production his wartime ballad "The Day After Tomorrow". Its strongest talking-point was the massive set by Sean Kenny (who had also done sterling work on *Oliver!*) which literally self-destructed during a bombing raid.

For his old friend Joan Littlewood, Bart next composed a title song and theme music for her film *Sparrows Can't Sing* (1963) starring Barbara Windsor and James Booth, and he had a hit with the title song for the James Bond film *From Russia With Love* (1964), recorded by Matt Monro.

Bart wrote the music and lyrics for his next stage musical, *Maggie May* (1964), but collaborated on the book with Harvey Orkin. Starring Rachel Roberts and Kenneth Haigh, it was a moderate success but produced no major song hits, though Judy Garland recorded four of the

success, winning several Oscars including Best Picture, plus nominations for Ron Moody (the original Fagin repeating his fine performance) and Jack Wild (as the Artful Dodger). Bart's score was kept virtually intact, and the soundtrack album was a best-seller. Columbia, the studio financing the film, had wanted an internationally known star (Peter Sellers) in the lead, but Reed and Bart fought to keep Moody. Their choice of Shirley Bassey to play Nancy was vetoed by the studio, who felt that if Bill Sykes was shown killing a black girl it could offend some audiences.

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Jesse Stone

JESSE STONE heard the phrase "shake, rattle and roll" while shooting craps and decide to write a lascivious song around it. Sung by Big Joe Turner, "Shake, Rattle and Roll" topped the country's rhythm and blues charts in 1954, a version by Bill Haley and His Comets made the Top Ten in both the US and the UK, and it was later covered by Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, the Beatles, the Swinging Blue Jeans, Billy Swan, Jerry Lee Lewis, Fats Domino and Canned Heat.

Stone, said the record-label owner Ahmet Ertegun, "did more to develop the rock 'n' roll sound than anybody else". That may be exaggeration as Stone worked for Ertegun's label, Atlantic, but he played a crucial role in the creation of the new music in the 1950s. His contribution is overlooked, largely because he wrote under a pseudonym (Charles Calhoun) in order to belong to both



Stone: rock 'n' roll sound

American publishing organisations. Ascap and BMI.

Jesse Stone was born in Atchison, Kansas, in 1901 and began singing in his parents' minstrel show when only five years old. During the 1920s

he worked in Kansas City as a pianist and vocalist and made his first record, "Starvation Blues", in 1927. He had his own band, which included Coleman Hawkins, and then worked with Duke Ellington and Jimmie Lunceford's orchestras.

In the early 1940s, Jimmy Dorsey recorded his composition "Sorghum Switch", and Benny Goodman and Guy Lombardo "Idaho". In the wake of Louis Jordan, Stone recorded novelty blues records for RCA and wrote the standard "Smack Dab in the Middle". His own recordings were collected in 1998 for the 30-track compilation *Alias Charles Calhoun*.

Ahmet Ertegun formed Atlantic in 1947 to record the best in black music and signed Jesse Stone as an arranger and songwriter who, ironically, became the only black person on the payroll. The R&B saxophonist Frank "Floorshow" Culley brought Stone a tune which he recognised as

his own "Sorghum Switch", and he renamed it "Cole Slaw" in honour of the New York disc-jockey Max Cole, and it became the label's first hit. He befriended Ray Charles and wrote his desolate "Losing Hand" (1953) and he coached the Clovers into developing their hit songs "Sh-Boom" and "One Mint Julep", both in 1953. He wrote their 1954 vignette "Your Cash Ain't Nothing But Trash", which was the template for the Coasters' style.

Lack of money is a frequent theme in blues and rock 'n' roll songs and Stone covered the subject humorously in "Money Honey", arranged for Clyde McPhatter and the Drifters in 1953. McPhatter's lead vocal owed much to his gospel training and added intensity to the playful lyric. The record topped the nation's rhythm and blues chart and has become a rock 'n' roll standard with versions from Elvis Presley, Little Richard, Gary Glitter and Ry Cooder.

Stone wrote further songs for the Drifters but "Big Bam" (1953) coincided with McPhatter's being drafted and "I Gotta Get Myself a Woman" (1956) was released amidst personnel changes. He worked with Ruth Brown, writing her chart hit "As Long As I'm Moving" (1956), and he arranged Chuck Willis's R&B hit "C.C. Rider" (1956). He also discovered the saxophonist King Curtis, who became a mainstay of Atlantic's record sessions.

Big Joe Turner was a fine blues singer, and Stone, who knew him from Kansas City, emphasised the rhythm rather than the blues in his work. As he put it, "I designed a bass pattern and it became identified with rock 'n' roll." Joe Turner was the first to sing "Shake, Rattle and Roll", and it was then covered for the upcoming white teenage market by Bill Haley and His Comets. Haley, deciding that the song was too erotic,

changed several lines and omitted the phrase "I'm going over the hill and way down underneath". Further versions from Elvis Presley and Buddy Holly combine the lyrics to make the song even more disjointed. Strangely the most sexual image of the song, "I'm like a one-eyed cat peepin' in a seafood store", bypassed the censorship.

Several of Stone's songs were recorded in the rock 'n' roll era: "Flip Flop and Fly" (recorded by Turner, Haley and Elvis Presley), "Rattle Dazzle" (an international hit for Bill Haley in 1955), "Down in the Alley" (the Clovers, Ronnie Hawkins, Elvis Presley), "Don't Let Go" (Roy Orbison), "You Better Stop" (Lav. ern Baker), "Smack Dab in the Middle" (Ray Charles, Wee Willie Harris), and "Like a Baby", an emotional, slow blues recorded by Elvis Presley in 1960.

In 1966 Jesse Stone left Atlantic

Records and formed his own publishing company in the Brill Building, Roosevelt Music. He had little success with new material, although he did encourage young writers, notably Don Covay. He worked as an arranger, including a spell at Frank Sinatra's Reprise label, but a traumatic time with a label connected with gangsters in Chicago made him want to quit the business. In 1966 he married Evelyn McGee of the vocal group Sweethearts of Rhythm, and he returned to New York.

In 1978 he and his wife studied for degrees in music at Kingsboro Community College and they retired to Florida in 1983.

SPENCER LEIGH

Jesse Stone, songwriter; born Atchison, Kansas 16 November 1901; married 1966 Evelyn McGee; died Altamonte Springs, Florida 2 April 1999.

Cambridge in cruise mode

Slough slump to hosts' rout

ROWING

BY HUGH MATHERSON

CAMBRIDGE EXTENDED their winning run in the Boat Race to even years by once again, for the third year in succession, producing the fastest crew ever. This is not hyperbole or even unexpected. Their finishing time of 16min 41sec broke the 1998 record and would have been faster than last year's crew, but for the fact that the tide which pushed them up from Putney to Mortlake was weaker and there was no wind.

The Light Blue coaching team, which seems able to control everything else, has not yet brought the moon or the breeze under its command. In other sports the achievements of the past are eclipsed by three good factors and one bad.

Improvements in equipment make it easier for each generation to outstrip the past. Improvements in training and technique which are not the same, but lumped together for its argument, are always important. The third good is the selection of the available pool of athletes and their superior physical condition. But the Cambridge secret has been the use and combination of the range and various styles and additions which have turned up in the first day of training each year. The bad is, of course, artificial aids such as banned drugs, which are not part of this sporting tale.



Cambridge's Toby Wallace kisses Vian Sharif, the cox of the winning crew, before her traditional dunking after the Boat Race Robert Hallam

come together on the same day. When that happened last year the old records went by 30 seconds.

This crew was equally capable but no one, least of all their own camp, was convinced they could pull it off. They had gone truly fast in training, finishing two 1,000m rows at Ely in 2min 43secs while trying out the different gearing of the oar length beyond the fulcrum. Then in Nottingham the week before the

race they had skinned a Notts County crew which, although largely composed of lightweighters, was hugely experienced. One minute 17 seconds for 500m is respectable speed for a 2,000m Olympic crew and is not expected days before a four-and-a-half mile race.

When Cambridge won the toss they chose the Surrey side of the course because they hoped they could get the best of the stream in the first couple of

minutes and because they knew they had the speed to get to the first bend without suffering a disadvantage. Afterwards their coach, Robin Williams, said: "I never thought we could take the Fulham bend as well as we did. I could not allow myself the luxury of a smile but I felt we could win from there." Oxford, meanwhile, had looked so secure and confident in training that you could be convinced they would settle into a solid rhythm

and bide their time while Cambridge threw in their early fireworks, before moving to the front. But shortly after the bend had turned in their favour it was difficult to spot the moment when they tried the move. Already they were lacking dash and verve.

It was Tim Wooge - who in training had been slowest to assimilate the Cambridge rhythm and, for some, the surprise choice for the key stroke seat

- who looked the sharper and Oxford's Colin von Eittinghausen, the world champion and Olympic silver medalist, who looked like he was pulling a block of lead. At Hammer-smith the gap was still negligible for men of this character and discipline but with 40 clinical strokes Cambridge put the knife in, sweeping clear and leaving Oxford to find their way home, wallowing in their wake for the next three miles.

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL
in 's-Hertogenbosch

will play to stay in the A Division.

SLOUGH, LOOKING to reach a third final in the past four years, yesterday suffered their worst European Club Championship defeat when they were hammered 8-3 by the host club, Den Bosch, in their last pool game.

Today they will play Edinburgh Ladies for the bronze medal. The Scots, thanks to goals from Val Neil and Alison Grant, scored a surprise 2-1 win against Rot Weiss Cologne.

Slough never recovered after conceding a goal in the eighth minute to the Argentinian centre-forward Vanina Oneto, the first of her three goals. The Dutch quickly moved into a three-goal lead before Jane Smith pulled one back for Slough, who trailed 6-1 at half-time. Smith scored a second and Sarah Kelleher a third for the English champions but by now the Dutch had taken their total to eight.

Beeston, with goals from Scott Gordon and James Edington, drew 2-2 with Lille in Amstelveen in the men's club championship and, like Slough,

There was no such luck for Clifton in the Cup-Winners' Cup in Terrassa where they drew 1-1 with Lithuanian side Vairvykste-Gintara and will also play off to defend England's place in the A Division.

In Buenos Aires, England assured themselves a place in today's final against the host's A squad with a 3-0 win over Argentina B in the Four Nations tournament. Calum Giles kept up his scoring run when he shot England into the lead from a penalty corner. Two minutes later the Southgate forward was upended by the Argentinian goalkeeper, with Russell Garcia scoring England's second from the resulting penalty stroke.

England won plenty of possession and it was at another penalty corner from which Ben Sharpe scored their third.

Result, Digest, page 11

Form with Mims as Sheffield block way

BASKETBALL

BY RICHARD TAYLOR

BILLY MIMS intends upsetting the Sheffield Sharks in the Budweiser Championship play-off quarter-finals, one year after his own Greater London Leopards were knocked off the road to Wembley at the first hurdle.

Sharks, who won the League with a dramatic 87-85 win over Manchester Giants on Friday, meet eighth-placed Leopards in the best-of-three series, with the winners playing at Wembley on the first weekend of May.

"Last season we were the League champions but lost in the quarter-finals to Manchester. Giants did it to us then, now we are going to have to do the same to Sheffield," Mims said.

Although Leopards lost their first two League meetings against Sheffield and were beaten 67-66 in the Cup final in January, they beat the Sharks

84-77 in the League a month ago.

Giants have to lift themselves after the defeat against Sheffield, but must first decide whether to appeal against the two-game ban on coach Nick Nurse, which could keep him out of the quarter-final series with Birmingham Bullets.

Bullets, last season's play-off champions, were the victims of Saturday's surprise result when Leicester City Riders won 87-85 at Derby Storm. Four late points from Leicester's Gene Waldron forced a three-way tie which resulted in Newcastle Eagles finishing fifth, Derby sixth and Bullets seventh.

Quarter-finals: Sheffield v Greater London; Manchester v Birmingham; Thames Valley v Derby; London v Newcastle.



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Raising the Standard

هكوى صالصال

If it hasn't flowered by August, then destroy it

I'M GOING to have to be quick because it's Sunday and the weather is glorious and Mrs Bryson has outlined a big, ambitious programme of gardening. Worse, she's wearing what I nervously call her Nike expression – the one that says "Just do it".

Now don't get me wrong. Mrs Bryson is a rare and delightful creature and goodness knows my life needs structure and supervision, but when she gets out a pad and pen and writes the dread words "Things To Do" (vigorously underscored several times), you know it's going to be a long time till Monday.

I love to garden – there is something about the combination of mindless activity and the constant unearthing of worms that suits me somehow – but frankly I am not crazy about gardening with my wife. The trouble, you see, is that she is English and thus can intimidate me. She can say things like, "Have you heeded in the nodes on the *Dianthus chinensis*?" and

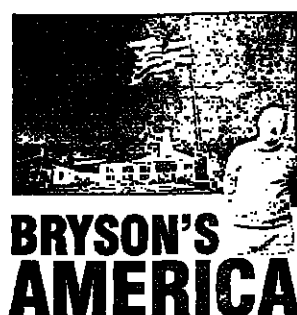
"Did you remember to check the sequestrene levels on the *Phlox subulata*?"

All British people can do this. I find, and it's awful – terrifying. Even now I remember the astonishment of listening to *Gardeners' Question Time* for the first time many years ago and realising with quiet horror that I was in a nation of people who not only knew and understood things like powdery mildew, peach leaf curl, optimum pH levels, and the difference between *Coreopsis verticillata* and *Coreopsis grandiflora*, but cared about them – indeed, found it gratifying to engage in long and lively discussions on such matters.

I come from a background where you are considered to have a green thumb if you can grow a cactus on a windowsill, so my own approach to gardening has always been rather less scientific. My method, which actually works pretty well, is to treat as a weed anything that hasn't flowered by August and to sprinkle everything else with bone meal,

slug pellets, and whatever else I find lying around the potting shed. Once or twice a summer I tip everything with a skull and crossbones on the label into a spray canister and give everything a jolly good dousing. It's an unorthodox approach and occasionally, I admit, I have to leap out of the way of an abruptly falling tree that has failed to respond to ministrations, but generally it has been a success and I have achieved some interesting effects. I once got a fence post to fruit, for instance.

For years, especially when the children were small and capable of almost anything, my wife left me to the garden. Occasionally she would step out to ask what I was doing, and I would have to confess that I was dusting some weedy-looking things with an unknown powdery substance which I had found in the garage and which I was pretty confident was either nitrogen or cement mix. Usually at that moment one of the children would come out to announce that little Jimmy's hair



BRYSON'S AMERICA

was on fire, or something else similarly but usefully distracting, and she would fly off, leaving me to get on with my experiments in peace. It was a good arrangement and our marriage prospered.

Then the children grew large enough to attend to their own cranial blazes and we moved to America, and now I find Mrs B out there with me. Or rather I am there with her, for I seem to have acquired a subsidiary role which principally involves bringing or taking away the wheelbarrow at a trot. I used to be a keen gardener, now I'm a kind of rickshaw boy.

Anyway, gardening isn't the same here. People don't even have gardens in America. They have yards. And they don't garden in those yards. They work in them. They call it "yardwork". Takes all the fun out of it somehow.

In Britain, nature is fecund and kindly. The whole country is a kind of garden, really. I mean to say, look at how wildflowers pop up along every roadside and dance across meadows. Farmers actually have to go out and exterminate them (well, they don't have to, but they sure like to). In America, the instinct of nature is to be a wilderness. What you get here are trifid-like weeds that come creeping in from every margin and must be continually hacked back with sabres and machetes. I am quite sure that if we left the property for a month we would come back to find that the weeds had captured the house and dragged it off to the woods to be slowly devoured.

American gardens are mostly lawn, and American lawns are mostly big. This means that you

spend your life raking. In the autumn the leaves fall together with a single great whoomp – a sort of vegetative mass suicide – and you spend about two months dragging them into piles, while the wind does its best to put them all back where you found them. You rake and rake, and cart the leaves off to the woods, then hang up your rake and go inside for the next seven months.

But as soon as you turn your back, the leaves begin creeping back. I don't know how they do it, but when you come out in spring, there they all are again, spread ankle deep across your lawn, choking thorny shrubs, clogging drains. So you spend weeks and weeks raking them up and carting them back to the woods. Finally, just when you get the lawn pristine, there is a great whoomp sound and you realise it's autumn again. It's really quite dispiriting.

And now, on top of all that, my dear missus has suddenly taken a commanding interest in the whole business of domestic horticulture. It's my own fault, I have to admit.

Last year I filled the lawn spreader with a mixture of my own devising – essentially fertiliser, moss killer, rabbit food (initially by mistake, but then I thought, "What the heck?" and tossed in the rest) and a dash of something lively called buprimate and triflorin. Two days later the front lawn erupted in orange stripes of a sufficiently arresting and persistent nature to attract sightseers from as far as northern Massachusetts. So now I find myself on a kind of permanent probation.

Speaking of which, I've got to go. I've just heard the hard, clinical snap of gardening gloves going on and the ominous sound of metal tools being taken down from their perches. It's only a matter of time before I hear the cry of "Boy! Bring the barrow – and look sharp!" But you know the part I really hate? It's having to wear this stupid coolie hat.

Notes from a Big Country by Bill Bryson is published by Doubleday, price £16.99



Jeff feels a particular responsibility for Tessaanna: "Through discussing painting we touch on the emotional stuff and what matters to us in our relationship"

Glynn Griffiths

Artists and soul mates

A FAMILY AFFAIR

TESSANNA

I didn't exactly idolise Dad when I was a little girl but there was certainly a special bond between us. Mum worked every day and on Mondays Dad was at home. So I'd say "I've got a headache" and he would always say "Stay at home – we'll go to the cake shop". Then we would write poems together or do my homework sitting in this peaceful room he had painted all white – it was the only calm room in the house because the rest were full of artist's colours.

Dad went to work in America for a few years when I was six. He came back and forth, but he was away for long periods of time and it was hard when he came back because he was so involved with America that I felt he wasn't really with us at all. It made him very tantalising.

My parents were a very glamorous and passionate couple when they were young and, as high fliers, they were swept up into an arty and creative circle. Even now Dad talks about it. He says, "My God, we were gorgeous. It was a wonderful time." There were always artists and musicians in and out the house and I would come home from school, walk into the sitting room and there would be a nude model with Dad painting her.

My parents split up for a time when I was in my teens and at Camberwell art college; in fact, I saw more of my Dad then because he made a great effort to be around. It was during this time that I identified a lot with him as an artist – his way

of putting medium on and nothing being static in his pictures. I did very big, uninhibited water-colours and very passionate drawing and I used lots of colour. I think I represented the part in Dad that was wild and free and physical.

I am sure any mother, unless she is superhuman, would have some jealousy of this father-daughter bond. It showed because every time I was talking to Dad, Mum would want to know what I had said, what was going on. It was, "Oh your father, he gets all the attention. What about me? I'm the one who provides for you and I get stepped on."

But when I was in my twenties I began to identify with Mum. She had a very disciplined approach to her work and she was successful, she made the money. I lacked that discipline and felt I needed it to survive the next bit of my life, as it were. Looking back, I think I wanted my mother's approval at this point and I became a lot less focused on Dad.

There was a moment when Dad was in America and he was nearly killed in a car accident. I wasn't very

aware of what happened at the time because I imagine Mum protected us. And on the other side Dad's not a drama queen like the rest of the family. He could be suffering the greatest amount of pain and he wouldn't say a goddamned thing. Now that he's such a big part of my life, I find myself thinking what a dreadful loss it would have been not to have him around at this time.

My mother died three years ago and that has been very hard; I feel I am still grieving and working through our mother-daughter relationship, but it has brought my father and me a lot closer. Through the years we had been living separately and getting on with our own lives, but after Mum's death he seemed to become much more of a parent, a concerned presence in my life.

Doing this exhibition with Dad is very important for me and, looking at my pictures, I see how my relationship with Dad has affected them. I did a lot of the work in America last summer and I imagine that has something to do with the fact that I sort of lost my father to the US,

because he was so seduced by America during my childhood. But it's not a problem now and it feels very tender and nice to be showing our work together.

JEFF

I see Tessaanna as a synthesis of her mother and me, so there were going to be conflicting ideas in her work. I have watched that through the years as her approach and ideas have changed. And I've seen the struggles she has. I have seen my role as being there to empathise through the difficult times and encourage her when things have been going well.

She was the bob end of the family and, as the smallest, always running along behind the bigger ones protesting that they were getting too far in front. I will always have this picture of a screaming little figure trying to keep up.

Certainly, I was aware of Tessaanna's adoration of me particularly when I was in America. She used to write me the most beautiful letters. I began to appreciate her much

more when I went away but she may not have realised this. In fact, I was in the process of getting paintings completed in Arizona and California and creating a sketchbook which I intended to give to Tessaanna when I had the accident. I was hit in my car by one of those enormous transporters when it jack-knifed and careered into my car. I was trapped in the front. I heard this burning behind me and I saw a great orange flame going up as a tower behind me. I tried to get out but both doors were jammed. Then people arrived and pulled me out of the window. I had paint all over me because the acrylics I had been painting with were in the back of the car and the tops had blown off. I remember thinking that this was it and longing to just be with my family. I wrote about it all afterwards and did a drawing for Tessaanna.

She is the professional artist among my children, and we have always talked a lot. Through discussing painting we touch on the emotional stuff and what matters to us in our relationship. I would describe

our relationship as ebullient. I'm probably more worldly with her than with most people because I know she's a spirit. I find myself talking about work and care – things I don't usually talk to people about.

We were lucky to live in St Peter's Square in Chiswick because it was full of creative people, like Vanessa Redgrave and her family: Laurie and Cathy Lee; and Anthony Gormley, who edited *House and Garden* and wore Teddy boy clothes. My wife always had the door open and everyone knew that if they put their hand through the letterbox, there would be a key. So we would find someone in the morning lying on the sofa not having known they were coming. When we separated for a while, my wife kept the house and treated it like a fortress. I made a great effort to see more of Tessaanna then because I felt I was getting further away from my children.

I wanted an exhibition with her because I feel her paintings, which are black and white, complement the strong colour in mine. But I also felt it would help her. I've changed position a lot since her Mum died. I have become aware how important I am in the children's lives and I feel a particular responsibility in Tessaanna's case because she's the artist and a soul mate.

INTERVIEWS BY ANGELA NEUSTAITER

Tessaanna and Jeff's work will be shown together at Gallery 27, 27 Cork Street, London W1 (0171-287 2018) from 6 to 9 April

SURVIVING EASTER

What are you doing with the kids over the holiday? Some celebs tell us how they're coping.

Linford Christie, 39:

"I will be with the members of 'Team Linford' and my family on Easter Monday. A bank holiday for an athlete is the same as any other day, which involves training!"



Jonathan Coleman, 42, Jono, DJ for Heart 106.2 FM:

"Every Easter, my wife Margot and I take our two kiddies to Bishopstrow House in Warminster, a beautiful place filled with restaurants and tennis courts, set in miles of countryside. On Good Friday morning, little Oscar, five, and Emily, two, pack their swimming costumes, while I pack their Easter eggs. There's always an Easter hunt on Sunday morning, followed by a party at lunchtime, so Margot always packs some extra eggs in case mine don't last until Easter Sunday!"



Nicola Duffett, 38, plays Catt Matthews in Family Affairs and formerly Debbie:

Nicola's wife, in *EastEnders*: "I am taking my mother and my two girls away to Gran Canaria over Easter. Being a single working mother, it is extremely important for me to make the most of my time with the children, and getting away for a holiday will be a perfect way."



Richard Branson, 48:

"I will be spending Easter with my wife, Joan, and my two children Holly, 16, and Sam, 13, on Necker Island in the Caribbean. We normally have a large Easter dinner together."



Jools Holland, 41:

"I went to EuroDisney last weekend with all of my kids – Mabel, eight, Rosie, 13, and George, 14 – and I'm now taking a holiday to recover."



Steve Cram, 38:

"It sounds terrible but I am not going to be spending Easter with my kids. I am going to Rome with my wife, Karen, to meet up with some friends. The children, Josephine, nine, and Marcus, six, are going to stay with their cousins in Munich. They'll be flying on their own for the first time and my sister-in-law will meet them at the airport. They're very excited and are taking Easter eggs with them and are talking about going skiing."



Interviews by Nathalie Curry and Daisy Price

Tomorrow night, exactly 25 years after pop met its Waterloo at the Eurovision Song Contest, Abba's greatest hits musical *Mamma Mia* opens in London. Is it just a question of money, money, money? By David Benedict

The name of the game

Cast your mind back to 1974. Name the British entry in the Eurovision Song Contest. No? Well, unless you're willing to show yourself to be an anorak of quite frightening dimensions by admitting that it was Olivia Newton-John with "Long Live Love", you've got "nol points".

That fateful April night when 500 million people in 32 countries watched a virtually unknown Swedish pop group beat 16 other entries to win Eurovision was so long ago, there was a guest appearance by The Wombles. But the winner takes it all. A quarter of a century later, almost everyone in the West can still sing along to "Waterloo", the winning song from Agnetha, Anni-Frid, Benny and Bjorn.

When gay clubs began replaying Abba's hits at the start of the Nineties - in suitably quasi-ironic fashion - they incited a best-selling cover version from the likes of Blancmange and Erasure. That led to Abba spear-heading the entire Seventies revival. The world may have stopped short of reclaiming their ghastly costumes, thanks to the first law of fashion - if you can remember wearing it the first time, don't even think about it the second - but compilation CDs like *Abba Gold* are selling by the truckload.

Small wonder that weeks before opening, advance sales for *Mamma Mia*, the musical based on Abba songs, were near the £2m mark and climbing. The show, the brainchild of producer Judy Cramer, who worked with Benny and Bjorn on their hit musical *Chess*, has been in gestation for at least 18 months.



Slobhan McCarthy, Jenny Galloway and Louise Plowright in 'Mamma Mia'

Geraint Lewis

Previous attempts to dramatise their back catalogue (including the sublimely titled *Abbracadabra*) floundered, but after two weeks of previews, *Mamma Mia* opens tomorrow. One reason this version has legs is the calibre of its personnel.

For starters, the producers secured the designer Mark Thompson, the man behind the look, style and feel of the enormously successful revamp of *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and the visually entrancing *Doctor Doolittle*. Only after he came on board did they select the director Phyllida Lloyd.

Although this is her first musical, Lloyd is no stranger to the peculiar perils and pleasures of the form, having directed a punchy revival of *The Threepenny Opera* at London's Donmar. As well as endless plays, she's also directed riotously well-received operas. Indeed, she has only just finished Verdi's *Macbeth*. "When I arrived at the read-through immediately after working at the Paris Opera, in terms of concentration, intimacy, commitment and privacy, it was like entering a Peter Brook laboratory." Although she sees more similarities than differences between the forms, the biggest single difference is the musical's dependence on electronics and sound. "The massive presence of amplification means you have to try to

match that power with the actors." Amid the brouhaha surrounding the news that the National Theatre is now using microphones, few have addressed the fact that, whereas musical performers once filed their natural voices, these days every musical is miked.

"Watching something like *Saturday Night Fever*, quite often you can't actually tell who's speaking because the sound comes from loudspeakers. So we're trying to go for perhaps rather old-fashioned values. This is not a hi-tech production. We've deliberately gone for a rather hands-on, we-do-it-all-ourselves sort of feel." So, no hydraulics then? Mark Thompson smiles, sheepishly. "Well... there is one element of hydraulics," he concedes. But Lloyd insists that his simple, versatile set has allowed for changes and developments during rehearsals.

Not only does this buck the trend towards spectacle, it also allows for an unusual degree of creative freedom. The grander the set, the earlier it has to be built, and that's usually ages before rehearsals begin. That militates against really major rewrites, a redesign being, at best, almost prohibitively costly.

As Thompson observes, the big

difference between the forms is that opera is a given and can't be changed. "But with musicals, even when the songs are a given, as they are here, it can be tampered with." With Catherine Johnson's script now in its seventh draft - she's the third writer to have worked on the idea - there has clearly been more

you pray that audiences will go out humming the songs. Here, they go in humming them.

That brings its own difficulties. Stephen Sondheim has always contested that audiences don't hear harmonies, just melodies. Whatever the truth of that generalisation, it is manifestly not the case here. Audi-

ences know these songs inside out. Only a tiny percentage of them could discuss the delicious harmonic suspensions of, say, *Thank You For the Music*, but everyone senses that it's not just the melodies that makes these songs work.

Nevertheless, to Lloyd's amazement, composers Benny and Bjorn have readily taken new ideas on board. "Yesterday, we were very

worried about a particular strain of orchestration that we thought was preventing the audience from experiencing a particular moment in a scene. So they just said: 'We'll rewrite it.' The backing vocals which audiences know so well have created a particular conundrum. "Take them out because they're inappropriate to the scene and we've found the audience sing them anyway. So we put them back in. We keep trying different things in order to release the scenes in the right way." Finding a dramatic imperative for the songs has been the aim. "I'm not saying that every song is essential to the drama, but some of them move the story forward and express the inner life of the characters, while others come out of left field.

"The story is partly dealing with the Seventies... we needed that excuse to allow a certain cluster of songs." In stark contrast to the quick-fix, flimsy structures propping up most greatest hits-style musicals, Johnson has written a real plot about a girl on the eve of her wedding searching for her real father. Instead of carbon-copy retreads, several songs are sung by another gender or another generation. "The Name of the Game" is no longer

about a relationship. It's now used by somebody asking someone to declare if they are their father. "Does Your Mother Know?" is now sung by an older woman to a very young boy trying to make a pass at her.

"We're trying to make you hear them in a new way," says Lloyd, rebuking those who wish to write it off as another cheap compilation. Let's face it, Abba can't be in it just for the money. In 1982 they were Sweden's highest foreign currency earners - more than Volvo. Disc sales are unimaginable and they get both performance and writers royalties.

A percentage of potential box-office millions isn't exactly a tough pill to swallow for Lloyd and Thompson, but they are remarkably free of cynicism. "We're trying not to take ourselves too seriously," says Lloyd, "but the ballads in particular are like little theatrical tales. We want to create an extraordinarily festive, witty, ironic, surprising bed for these wonderful songs, and to make a story that releases them in a sometimes surprising way.

"We hope to create pure pleasure. We're not splitting the atom."

Prince Edward Theatre, London.
Box office: 0171-447 5400

Play it again, Ben

POP
BEN LEE
IMPROV THEATRE
LONDON

IT SEEMS odd that lyrics such as "Please take off your clothes" comes easily to the 20-year-old singer-songwriter, Ben Lee, but the loss of a shirt button prompts a furious flush of embarrassment.

"This is truly unexpected," he gibbered. "I cannot continue with my shirt hanging open." A chorus of whoops in the audience suggested otherwise, but Lee was clearly uncomfortable and asked for a new one.

Unfortunately, this was not the only difficulty that he encountered. Lee arrived on stage to find half the audience sitting cross-legged on the floor, as if re-enacting a scene from *Sixties* Haight-Ashbury, and it wasn't until after his second track that he plucked up the courage to ask them to stand up. His desire to stand at the front of the stage was also hampered by crackling feedback, while on one occasion he had to call a halt to proceedings in order to tune his guitar. However - even if the clumsy nature of Lee's set was occasionally difficult to watch - it was utterly engaging.

Lee's extraordinary vocal range added much-needed weight to his songs. The mainstream catchiness of his album, *Breathing Tornadoes*, can be grating, but Lee revealed a pleasing graininess to his voice that belied his years, and infused the material with earth-shattering intensity.

This depth of feeling was also displayed in his curious stage antics. You feared for Lee's safety throughout "Cigarettes Will Kill You" as he spun round on his heels, causing his guitar lead to wrap tightly around his ankles, while his ungainly attempts at dancing were enough to make the notoriously goofy Beck look slickly choreographed.

Like Beck, Lee is in possession of an unfashionable enthusiasm for performance - to the point of sometimes forgetting his surroundings. As he wrapped himself around the microphone and balanced his guitar on his head during "Ship My Body Home", he could have been a schoolboy becoming carried away in front of the mirror in the privacy of his bedroom. You felt that you weren't supposed to be privy to such adolescent melodrama, yet it was disarmingly moving.

One imagines Lee's youthful enthusiasm will soon be squashed as relentless touring takes its toll. Indeed, his songs might actually benefit from a bit of adult cynicism. But this precocious musician's unwavering belief in the power of live performance - albeit with a decidedly creaky guitar - made for one of the most fresh and most compelling shows this year.

FIONA STURGES

THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

Today On this day in 1960 Ben Hur won a record 10 Oscars ("...and many thanks to my chariot-dealer..."). On the same day in 1874 Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*, featuring a baritone dressed as a bat, began fitting round for the first time.

Tomorrow Albrecht Dürer died in 1528. His *Study of a Horse* is much reproduced but he presumably held greater store by his 100-square-foot *Triumphal Arch*, the largest known woodcut. The first in-flight movie was screened in 1925; *The Lost World* - not Steven Spielberg's but the good version, based on Arthur Conan Doyle's original yarn.

Wednesday In 1919 Britain heard its first jazz music from The Original Dixieland Jazz Band at the Hippodrome in London; they were sacked instantly for being better than the star of the show. But then no one said the blues would be easy: ask Billie Holiday, born in 1915.

Thursday Good news for pianists without room for a grand came in 1807: William Southwell patented the upright piano. Ten years ago

London heard the first complete performance of *Odyssey*, the symphony by Nicholas Maw which clocked up the longest single-movement work in Western musical history: 100 (no coughing please) minutes.

Friday The first British drama series began in 1954: *The Grove Family* featured Mr Grove, Mrs Grove and Granny Grove. Carl Perkins was born in 1932; his "Blue Suede Shoes" was so outstanding that even Cliff Richard made a good fist of it.

Saturday The first conductor to perform in Britain was German Louis Spohr, keeping the tempo at a Philharmonic Society concert in 1820. As seen in *Backbeat*, Stuart Sutcliffe, the original Beatles bass-player, died in Hamburg.

Sunday In 1988 the music for Kenneth MacMillan's ballet *Elle Syncopations*, based on Scott Joplin's music and performed in Munich, was provided by two pianos; the rest of the Bavarian State Opera orchestra was silent, quoting a 1937 Nazi law banning music by black people.

JONATHAN SALE

The long and winding road

"ENDLESS PARADE" is an upbeat title for a concert series featuring British music since 1945. It's also the name of one of Harrison Birtwistle's less interesting pieces from the 1980s, so it had, in all decency, to be included in the first concert on Wednesday.

The title tells us the music (for a solo trumpet and strings) is like a frieze rather than a conclusive form. It doesn't tell us the effect is aimless or the material undistinguished. The soloist's little four-note motif punctuating the proceedings ought to be arresting, but seems lame, and the string writing sounds haphazard. Hakan Hardenberger, for whom "Endless Parade" was written, at least had the reward of showing off his flawless technique, while the BBC Symphony Orchestra's strings under Sir Andrew Davis got no evident joy at all.

CLASSICAL
ENDLESS PARADE
BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
SIR ANDREW DAVIS
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
LONDON

The concert opened with "Millennium Scenes" by 28-year-old Richard Causton. His programme note described it as a response to the apparently empty triumphalism of the official festivities and invoked the analogy of fleeting images or cinematic scenes - a model of continuity, or discontinuity; that Debussy adopted near the beginning of the century.

By now we're probably immune to shock from the bombardment of diverse information - it all tends to co-

alesce - and though Causton built his 14-minute piece from short sections, they were quite respectably stitched together. The sound-world was harsh and cold, with a lot of piercing woodwind (and even whistles for the percussionists), and in the most subtle section, where the strands of eerie harmonies (the jargon is "spectral"), which also happens to be poetically aptly shifted apart, the music's climate was still untried. Which is precisely my feeling about the future.

And what of eternity, which is the subject of Michael Tippett's ambitious cantata (oratorio, if you like), *The Vision of St Augustine*? If it seems strange that just as he turned 60 Tippett completed a work setting words (in Latin) he couldn't believe, then perhaps the point was to address a question that was - is - there. Similarly,



Birtwistle and Causton

Tippett's music strives rather than achieves. One of his musical starting-points was the sort of struggling polyphony you find in the finale of Beethoven's Choral Symphony or the Grosse Fuge, which wells up in the middle section of the cantata as Aug-

ustine touches on the nature of eternity itself. Tippett's music is nothing if not courageous, and at least some of its ugliness is deliberate - as when the choral sopranos sing the words "O aeterna veritas et vera caritas et caritas aeternitas!" ("O eternal truth and true love and beloved eternity") to notes set apart by wide intervals.

The women of the BBC Singers and Symphony Chorus were clearer than the men, while the baritone Alan Opie struggled manfully, not sanctimoniously. I noticed most of the audience didn't even attempt to follow the words in the programme book. No doubt they all coalesced nicely.

ADRIAN JACK

Further concerts in the series: Saturday 24 April, Thursday 29 April, RPH. Booking: 0171-960 4212

A few cards short of the full deck

IN THE rather less than bustling village in which I grew up, the weekly blaze of feverish activity centred upon a whist drive. For readers under the age of 90 who may never have heard of such a thing, I should explain that this possibly extinct activity consisted of a session of competitive card playing not unlike gin rummy, the game which fuels the, er, action of *The Gin Game*.

In an attempt to entice serious theatregoers, the publicity proudly announces that D.L. Coburn's play won the Pulitzer Prize. If that's the case, I'm massively relieved that I didn't have to sit through the other

nominations. It may date from 1977 but it's so old-fashioned I had an ice-cream in the interval.

On Robin Don's beautifully dishevelled front porch of an old people's home, Weller (Joss Ackland) shambles about in disgruntled fashion before settling down to cheating at a hand of patience. Enter Dorothy Tutin as Fonsia - their names alone suggest the writing's strained, would-be quirky charm - who immediately embarks on exposition. She has only been there three weeks so Weller conveniently explains everything to her and us.

He has little time for the other

THEATRE
THE GIN GAME
SAVOY THEATRE
LONDON

inmates - "one half is shaking so goddamn much they can't focus, the other half is asleep" - a fact picked up on by the design. Peep through the French windows at the back and you can see a sitting room in which two motionless grey heads jut out above the back of a sofa, a piece of set dressing that is certain to be among the nominations for this year's for

"Most Creative Use of Wigs" award. Fortunately, there is more activity downstage as events turn into a battle of elderly wills over increasingly vitriolic card games. It's touching, but a very long way from *Dealer's Choice*.

The programme boasts dozens of starrily cast productions worldwide, but that says more about the dearth of decent roles for actors over 65 than the quality of the play which is little more than an excuse for good acting. With veteran director Frith Banbury managing to pace everything to perfection, that's precisely what you get. His well-judged production has

a place for everything and everything is in its place.

Every early assertion about independence is later blown apart by personal revelations under pressure as Weller - a kind of foul-mouthed Ironside sans wheelchair - proves himself to be a tyrannically bad loser.

Poor terrorised Fonsia struggles to retain her dignity but finally descends to Weller's level and cries "fuck". If that scandalises but secretly thrills you, book now.

DAVID BENEDICT

Box office: 0171-336 8888

An austere Victorian orphanage has been transformed into a gallery fit for Sir Eduardo Paolozzi's work. By Nonie Niesewand

The Vulcan has landed



It's a surreal thing. A gigantic tin man with welded seams and a Frankenstein's Monster face stalks through the core of the new national Dean Gallery in Edinburgh. *Vulcan*, a 15-foot sculpture by Sir Eduardo Paolozzi, is allegorical. Vulcan, god of fire and the working of metals, as well as the patron of craftsmen in mythology, shows us that post-modernism is back in fashion. Man and machine are celebrated in Modernism but the post-modernists like to put a bit of poetry and fantasy back into their projects.

Terry Farrell, the architect, shaped this gallery inside an old stone orphanage. The corridor that runs 154 feet from one end of the building to the other is tall and stuffed with objects of curiosity; the glass showcases are lit with brilliant fibre optics and every available space is used to show off the collection.

A hippo skull atop a joist overlooks busts and torsos perched above architraves on the pediments. Paolozzi's Chelsea studio is recreated in the gallery – even the magazine pages from which he cut out images to make his collages are stored here, giving a fascinating glimpse into his way of working.

Paolozzi has said that his ideal gallery would be a gutted cathedral, full of clutter and change. Farrell has sympathy with that: "There is in my own work a magpie quality in what I do. I like the mix and unlikely juxtaposition – such as the garage-like TV station (TV-AM) I did in Camden, the grand palace that is the Charing Cross office."

A shy man, Sir Eduardo deliberately turned up late for the opening on 25 March but Lord Snowdon, who opened the exhibition, was clear in his opinion that a gallery should be created for the artist in his lifetime. "Absolutely right for an artist of his standing. It was generous of him to donate his work to the nation so now it's there for posterity."

And then there are the Surrealist archives: Salvador Dali introducing Surrealism to the British at the New Burlington Galleries in 1936 in full diving gear, including a bubble mask, which rendered his speech inaudible. The shock waves of this audacious art had a profound effect in Britain.

"The British have always had a love affair with Surrealism," says Ann Simpson, curator of the archives. "From my point of view Paolozzi's work shows a seamless join with Surrealism – multiple sources, a lateral view of life. These images come straight out of that."

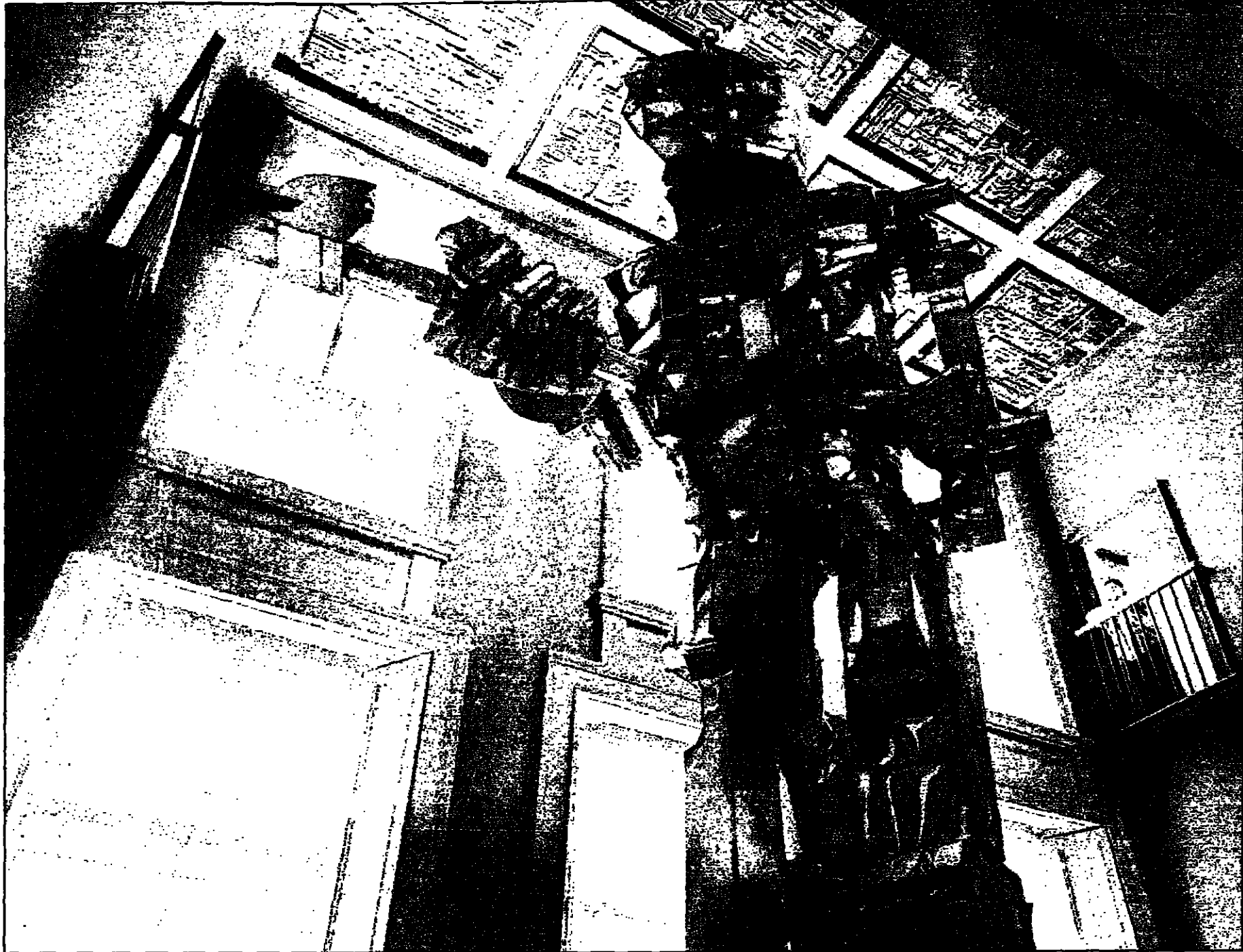
You don't have to know much about Surrealism to get the message from *Clock of Secrecy* by Conroy Maddox, 1940, which is exhibited against one of the yellow walls at the far end: a torso cut off above the waist, cloaked in red gauzy net with two billiard balls where the breasts should be.

The restoration is sympathetic to the building by Thomas Hamilton (1784-1858). Farrell calls the building a masterpiece though it is a weirdly wonderful one – all facade and no content. Hamilton designed this Edinburgh orphanage in 1830 as a fantastic baroque flourish.

The two wings and each corner support clusters of impossibly high crenellated towers that are the flues. The chimney pots hide shyly behind overscaled urns that scrape the sky. The building is tiered like a wedding cake with baroque features that are out of time with the strait-laced Scottish interpretation of Regency style.

This exuberance breaks down once inside the Ionic portico. Here the rams' head bas-relief on the walls explains the homage to the benefactor paid in the facade with all its flourishes and the austere interiors. The ram is the symbol of the shepherd with his flock. The outside of the orphanage pays homage to the benefactors. The interiors austere as befits a workhouse.

Architects working there at



Paolozzi's 'Vulcan' stands in the space created by Terry Farrell. Above left: sculpted hands and feet are visible through a porthole

Colin McPherson

nights for the past four years say that although they have never seen a ghost, the place was spooky. Farrell has done everything to dispel that. Now the ram motif inspires the chairs in the Dean Café which stand on cloven-footed feet. Small silver studs on the black wooden seat represent the constellation of Aries, sign of the ram. Daylight from roof lights shines through glass panels in the floor above and onto intensely coloured walls, bringing the place alive. But there are pools of shadow to keep the mystery.

Sue Farrell, the architect's wife, has collaborated with him for 15 years and in the magnificent cobalt-blue corridor, sparkling under fibre optic lights, she has achieved the impossible feat of warming up blue to an Yves Klein intensity that makes the space dynamic. Blue is usually cool but this colour is not. "It's called Betty Blue Two, after a Dior

dress Queen Elizabeth II wore in the Sixties," Terry Farrell explains.

Girls and boys were separated by a thick stone wall which had the effect of cutting brutally in half the gracious Neo-classical building with two wings on either side of the entrance. The windows were above fireplaces where you would expect a fire and it is possible to stand in

such a thing," Terry Farrell is bemused. "Hamilton continuously did it throughout the building. It was like a mad challenge, obsessive." So Farrell, of course, kept them and added a few of his own, and used glass bull's-eyes set into the floor to house some of Paolozzi's beautifully sculpted feet and hands.

There was no spatial organisation.

'There is a magpie quality in what I do. I like that mix and juxtaposition'

front of the fire and look out into another room, or across into leafy Edinburgh.

What is more challenging is that there is no sign of the flues, with chimneys all gathered together on top of staircases. "I've never seen

just dormitories and hospital wards off endless corridors. Farrell's brief was to supply public galleries to house the permanent Paolozzi collection and the Dada and Surrealist art, mostly collected by Roland Penrose and Gabrielle Keller, plus

storage space in the basement and offices in the wings for the National Galleries of Scotland. The Heritage Lottery Fund found £6.5m for the £9m project.

First he blasted through the block that separated the girls' and boys' wings and concentrated on a double-height floor for the great hall where the *Vulcan* sculpture landed. Then he put in two bull's-eye windows in the floor so that you can see from top to bottom, just as you can see from one end of the corridor to another.

Now there is a legible reading of the building as a total space, the reverse of that almost blockaded 19th-century orphanage. To insert load-bearing floors, bathe it with light and create a central axis uniting the building was technically difficult – putting porthole windows into structural support walls is a real challenge – but the effect is

seamless. You would never know. Like all post-modernists – and Farrell admits we do live in the post-modern era whether you want to call it New Modernism or whatever – he has always enjoyed the allegorical.

He has respected the Classical with Hamilton's plan uninterrupted, built rooms for art that he admires and used the ideas of William Blake as inspiration. William Blake challenged the legacy of Isaac Newton in his own time and Farrell, reading through his poems, found 40 references to Newton in them.

So he took Paolozzi's great figure of Newton which was designed for the British Library and levitated a second casting among the diners in the gallery's café. Props winched underneath with boxes removed from a void which means Newton rises off his plinth effectively to hang in mid-air. Terra is not so firma in the Farrell lexicon.

Southwark: walking back to happiness

Radical projects in a south London borough aim to improve the lot of the pedestrian. By Ellis Woodman

IN THE summer of 1996 a disused car-wash in south London played host to an extraordinary exhibition. A collaboration between Southwark Council and the Architecture Foundation, Future Southwark set itself the task of re-imagining the streets of its immediate locale. Eight teams of architects were asked to consider what might be done to improve public spaces. Now Southwark Council has realised some of the ambition that that show: three of the proposals have been implemented.

The car-wash was pulled down not long afterwards, but the street on which it stood, Southwark Street, has enjoyed a radical redesign by the architect firm, muf. In order to calm the nerves of planning committees and highways departments, muf were at first only allotted funding for a 100m-long "pilot project". To an extent, one can sympathise with the panic: muf describe their scheme as an "urban beach" but the nearest body of water is the Thames, a good 200 metres to the north. A beach without water is an obscure candidate for over £1m of public funding. And yet, based on the success of the now completed trial, money has been found to transform the remaining 600 metres of Southwark Street.

So what does the work involve? In basic terms, the architects are creating an expanded footway with associated planting, lighting, signage and street furniture. They have given their attention solely to the

south-facing pavement, aiming to create the most generous space possible on the sunny side of the street. For stretches, the pedestrian wins back the width of a traffic lane. The new space is therefore broad enough to support a range of activities without hampering the passage of A-to-Bers. Not, perhaps, unlike a beach. The new ground surface – concrete embedded with Thames shingle – does much to enforce that reading. The street also happens to form the main route to Bankside Power Station – soon to be the Tate Gallery of Modern Art. In anticipation of the visitor onslaught, office use is being swept aside in favour of cafes, shops and hotels.

Muf's design emerged from a consultation process which gathered the views of residents, visitors and those who work in the area. The responses seemed often fantastical, often in direct conflict and yet the final scheme manages to honour a remarkable number of those demands. The residents' association envisaged the area as a pleasure garden, planted from end to end. There is little available land for such a scheme, but by planting along the faces of buildings, the architects manage to eke out a continuous green ribbon. Grips about stopped access to the raised ground floors of existing buildings are answered in the next phase of the project, and not with the cursory disabled ramp – rather, the entire pavement humps up. It is an inclu-

sive sensibility also in evidence in the pilot project. The built work includes a pair of black concrete benches, resembling a couple of beached whales. Their design followed workshops in which the concerns of local children were sought and as a result, one bench has a special child-height seat set into it.

No one has any delusions about Southwark Street's café culture extending onto neighbouring Borough High Street: as the latter is one of central London's main

Gentrification and tourism have come to be seen as offering the best path to recovery

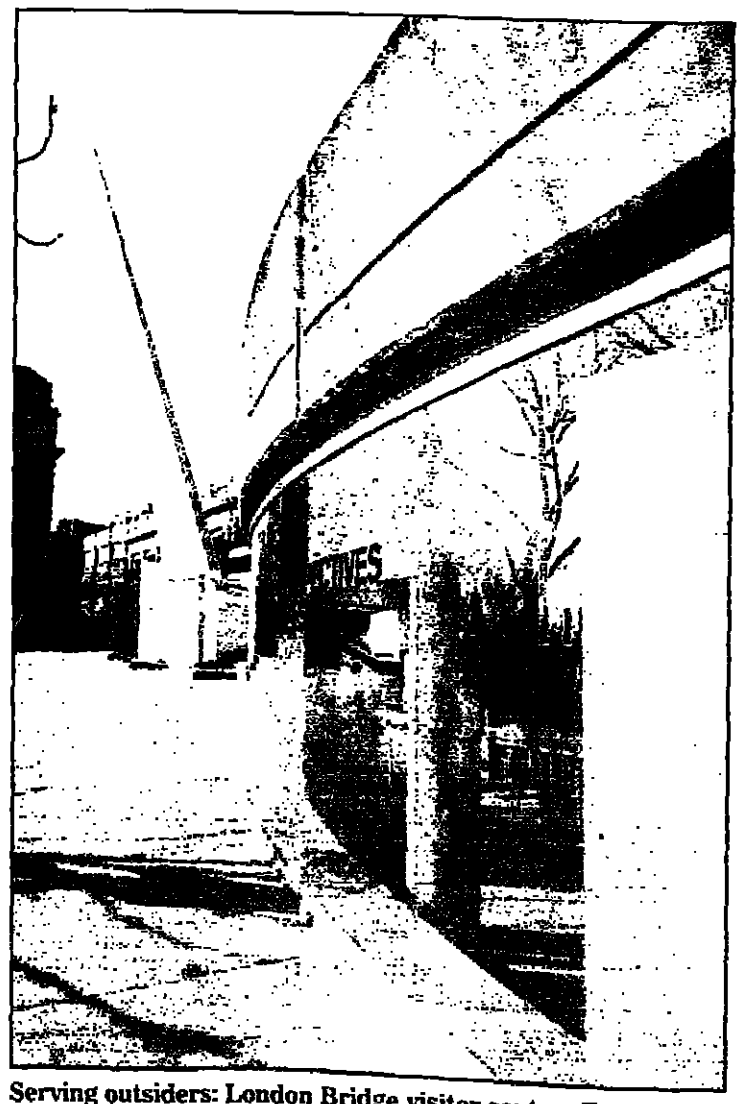
traffic arteries, there is too much noise and no potential to widen pavements. Nonetheless, the architect firm East's re-landscaping programme does much to improve the lot of the pedestrian. East have relaid the pavements in a dark blue. It is a strong choice, sitting happily against the grimy brick of the predominant Victorian building stock. This new surface provides the background for an ingenious lexicon of signage. Doorways to shops are designated name-plaques in multi-coloured terrazzo. More significant addresses such as Green Market

have their names cut into new "threshold mats" in inlaid granite. Side streets are named with a fattening of the kerb-line. As street signs are almost invariably scaled for the attention of the car-user, it is a pleasure to encounter so much reading intended for those travelling at three rather than 30 miles per hour. Larger-scale interventions are planned for the ends of the street – to the south, a huge free-standing planter; and to the north, a billboard-sized mirror giving improved views of Southwark Cathedral from the street.

The third project, opening this week, is the most conventionally building-like. Eric Parry Architects have shoehorned a new visitor centre under one of the concourses that joins London Bridge Station to the wider world. Housed within a minimal glass envelope, the visitor centre proper defers to a second structure located immediately next door. This takes the form of a 16m stone spire, cantilevered over the pavement at a precarious angle. At one level it operates as a signpost; the architects' drawings, however, refer to the structure as a "monument". So a monument to what? There is perhaps a clue to be found immediately on the other side of London Bridge. There stands Wren's Monument – a lone 202ft column, built of the same Portland White stone as the new structure. The Monument, boldly phallic in form, carries a regenerative association – appropriate

given that it celebrates the rebuilding of the City after the Great Fire. There has been no fire in Southwark, but since the port industries began relocating in the late 1960s, the area has been in steady decline. Parry's structure clearly aims to signify the end of this period of neglect. The regeneration is unquestionably afoot: the new Tate is taking shape; the neighbouring Globe Theatre is up and running; a pedestrian bridge across the Thames is being built to designs by Norman Foster; and, perhaps most crucially, the Jubilee Line Tube extension should come into service in October.

But the Parry project rather plays the role of spectre at the feast. For despite the widespread talk of community consultation, £700,000 worth of visitor centre asserts a pretty incontestable truth: the area's future lies in the hands of outsiders. Gentrification and tourism have come to be seen as offering the best path to recovery and the Future Southwark initiative represents a key stage in that transformation. Perhaps for this reason, a straw poll revealed as much suspicion as enthusiasm for the projects. Savvy to the experience of the established community in neighbouring Docklands, locals are wary of attempts at wholesale regeneration. Southwark Council needs to answer their concerns because the work it has built is of an exceptional quality. It deserves a better reception.



Serving outsiders: London Bridge visitor centre Emma Boom

NETWORK

Safety by numbers

A hot new piece of software is set to revolutionise the aircraft building industry.

By Mark Chadbourn

Investigation reports into the spate of plane crashes over the last two years have cast a question mark over how truly safe the skies are. But a new piece of software developed by a team from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, could bring a sigh of relief to troubled airline passengers by helping consign to history crashes caused by equipment failure.

It has caused such a ripple of excitement among plane manufacturers that it is also being investigated by Nasa, which sees it as a way of preventing another space shuttle disaster.

AutoSteve carries out what is known as Failure Mode Effects Analysis, a test of all the electrical circuits in a product. It predicts each possible failure for every component in the circuit and the knock-on effect of that failure. Until now, these tests have been carried out by hand, a laborious, time-consuming process which is open to human error brought about by boredom or lack of concentration. The implications are obvious for complicated pieces of technology such as aeroplanes and space shuttles, where the failure of a single circuit can have myriad repercussions which fan out throughout the structure.

But its potential was also recognised early on by car makers Ford and Jaguar, which helped finance the prototype. It has been tested by both companies for almost a year, checking circuits of their various models with remarkable results. And those results will benefit just about everyone - cars will be safer and more reliable. They will also be cheaper to make, but whether that saving will be passed on to the buyer remains to be seen.

"It will make cars safer. Absolutely. It will also make costs cheaper," explains Richard Shipman, AutoSteve systems engineer. "You can take individual components and test them and if it proves it doesn't make any difference to the safety of the car it can be cut out. And they will be more reliable because there will be fewer recalls."

"In the past, there has been a lot of lip service paid to this kind of fault analysis, but often the most basic kind of analysis slips off the engineer's desk. Their attitude, honed through experience, has been, 'This is so trivial, I don't have to do it.' But AutoSteve often picks up on faults they wouldn't have expected, even with all their experience," Shipman says. "The program always looks at the most detailed level whereas an engineer might say, 'My experience tells me I can gloss over this.'"

"Only about two or three years ago, the complexity of the average car electrically was such that an engineer could sit and think about the fault analysis and then write it up," Shipman says. "Now the average Ford has several tons of computers in there. Lots of wiring. Engineers don't have the ability to conceptualise that, and that's where AutoSteve comes in."

It has taken nine years' hard research and development, but it seems like the time has been well spent. When the prototype was first developed, it was too slow. Its laborious checking process might have saved wear and tear on the engineer's concentration, but the time-saving was minimal. Ford and Jaguar made suggestions and the university launched a follow-up project which cleared up bugs and managed to get it moving at lightning speed, far faster than any human process.

It didn't take long for feedback. Two of the core team members, Dr Chris Price and Dr Neal Snooks, were invited to Ford's US headquarters in Dearborn, where they gave executives a crash-course in the wide use of AutoSteve. The company responded with an instant recommendation. Jaguar also gave it an unequivocal thumbs-up.

This overwhelming response prompted the research team to look



An aircraft assembly line at Boeing: the company is in 'serious discussions' with AutoSteve's developers

alise that, and that's where AutoSteve comes in."

At the Reliability and Maintainability Symposium conference in Washington DC, a big gathering for the top companies' techno-whizzes, Dr Price's presentation got an enthusiastic response from a range of companies, including Siemens, Raytheon and GEC-Marconi.

"We're now so pleased with what we've got we're taking the project fully commercial," Shipman says. "We're selling to several auto-manufacturers and we're also in serious discussions with Boeing and Nasa. The aerospace industry, I must say,

is very interested now. The great strength here is that it will free up engineers' time to concentrate on what I'd call the more interesting failures - the ones that have more catastrophic effects and higher risks."

One of the aspects of AutoSteve which is winning over buyers is that it not only highlights potential

'In the past, there has been a lot of lip service paid to this kind of fault analysis'

faults, but also provides enough back-up analysis for a redesign of any failing system thanks to a powerful simulation tool.

Shipman is enthusiastic about the software's numerous strengths. "AutoSteve also allows circuit testing much earlier in the design cycle - in fact, very early on when the designers are working out the schematics for the new car models,

they can tell in advance which gauge of wire uses which resistors, say, instead of waiting five months down the line when the basic design doesn't work."

But then there's the name. AutoSteve doesn't exactly conjure up what may be a major leap forward in safety and reliability for our most worrying forms of transport, but it was christened in true techie humour early in the development process and now it's too late to change it. Two of the engineers advising the project were called Steve - Leadham from Ford and Twitchett from Jaguar - and it would automate part of their job, so ...

"It's a twee name," Shipman says, "but the initial research proposal called it Flame, which was a technical acronym. Ford, unsurprisingly, didn't like the connection with cars bursting into flame so in a moment of madness we settled for AutoSteve. But it doesn't matter what the name is. This software is a tremendous advance, and that's what's gaining the recognition."

When I got back to the UK, I tried the Yahoo! auctions, but, sadly, got routed into the US section, where you can't buy if you are a member of the lower form of online life (ie a non-American buyer). Undaunted, I then found a Brit-friendly auction. If you want to play the haggling game, try QXL (www.qxl.co.uk). It is a neat, well-organised service, and the bidding process is quite similar to OnSale.

Where I found it puzzling, though, is that on a few

occasions where I bought items from QXL, the goods didn't really look much like the item in the picture. Only then did I realise that there is a disclaimer pointing out that the illustration is purely ornamental and may not resemble the product itself. I guess QXL wants us to reach that higher level of abstraction, not satisfied with skipping human sales assistant, eliminating the cashier but also removing the association between the picture and the product itself.

There is also a potential hitch when you buy more than one product, as QXL is likely to source them from two or more suppliers, and each of them will bill you separate delivery charges, which is not entirely transparent in the instructions, so you need to watch for that.

I intended to send my purchase to a friend in Poland,

but QXL deals only with EU countries, so I had to do the Royal Mail bit on my own. But even with the cost of my private package, I still saved on the item by buying it on the auction site.

The best thing about online auctions is that they bring back the pleasure of haggling in the market, and create real dialogue between the seller and the buyer. It is quite likely that the popularity of online auctions will influence retailers to take notice and allow some flexibility in the process of arriving at the price. So I am looking forward to haggling in my local Tesco.

So test your nerves on QXL, but make sure you do your research and know the maximum price you are prepared to pay. Otherwise you may be caught up in the bidding frenzy and end up paying more than you would in a shop.

eva@never.com

BYTES
ANDY OLDFIELD

Key developers quit Netscape

AOL'S RECENTLY acquired Netscape division lost two key developers last week when Jamie Zawinski and John Giannandrea left the company. Giannandrea, a co-creator of Communicator's smart browsing features, had been with the company for five years when he left on Friday. The day before, Zawinski, Netscape engineer and Mozilla.org project co-founder, had tendered his resignation.

"Netscape has been a great disappointment to me for quite some time," he said in a message posted on the Web. "The more people involved, the slower and stupider their union is."

"In my humble but correct opinion, we should have shipped Netscape Navigator 5.0 no later than six months after the source code was released. But [the Mozilla.org group] couldn't figure out a way to make that happen. I accept my share of responsibility for this, and consider this a personal failure."

AOL and Mozilla.org said they regretted the resignations. "[Zawinski and Giannandrea] have done really excellent work in getting Mozilla where it is now," said Mike Shaver, who will take over Zawinski's responsibilities for developer relations. "But Mozilla is bigger than Netscape, and it's certainly bigger than two or three people."

Industry rumours suggest that the resignations could be the start of a Netscape brain drain and that other key figures will also leave shortly.

MEANWHILE, SUN Microsystems and AOL said last week that the Sun-Netscape alliance would continue selling overlapping electronic commerce products from both companies while developing a unified set of next-generation software for release early next year.

The alliance said that it would develop products to run on major operating systems for messaging and collaboration over the Internet, as well as directory and security features for safely navigating and doing business on the Web.

AOL said that the companies were not yet ready to enter a joint venture. The alliance was "to test the waters" with a commitment from Sun and AOL to bring 1,000 employees from each firm to the project. Neither company would say whether the alliance, if successful, is intended to spin-off as a separate company.

IBM WILL remove adverts from its websites from next month unless advertisers post clear privacy policies. The company, itself the second-largest advertiser on the Web, said that it was making the stand to help overcome consumers' fears of engaging in electronic commerce. Privacy policies let Web users know what



information will be collected when they use a site, and how it will be used for marketing.

"We felt this was an opportunity for us to use the economic or financial leverage of advertising to encourage sites without a privacy policy to adopt and clearly post policies for people to see," said an IBM spokesman, John Bukovinsky. "It's critical that private industry take whatever initiatives it can to ensure fundamental privacy practices are followed."

MICROSOFT SAID last week that it has completed development of the Office 2000 suite of business software programs and will begin shipping it to corporate customers this month. Retail versions of the latest releases of Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access will go on sale to the general public on 10 June.

A third and final beta test version of the Windows 2000 operating system is anticipated this month. Jon Perera, lead product manager for Windows 2000, confirmed that Microsoft would deliver the beta this month and that final shipment of a full version was likely before the end of the year.

"We're in a very good position," he said. "[But] promising a date would be the wrong thing to do. There's nobody who can promise one month from another."

COREL CORPORATION last week moved to win back a significant share in the office suite market by announcing an alliance with the original PC chip manufacturer (OEM) PC Chips group. WordPerfect Suite 8 will be bundled with every motherboard shipped by PC Chips. Last year, the Hong Kong-based manufacturer shipped more than 15 million motherboards, putting it ahead of Compaq, IBM and Dell, which shipped 13, 8 and 7 million respectively.

The alliance also involves a joint marketing campaign that will support the upcoming release of WordPerfect Office 2000 and Corel's graphics products and e-commerce packages.

"The sheer scale of PC Chips' reach makes this Corel's largest OEM opportunity to date, and one that will be hard to surpass," said Michael Cowpland, Corel's president and chief executive officer. "This will significantly increase the penetration of our WordPerfect productivity applications round the world."

I've been bitten by the online auction bug

A FEW weeks ago, while on a trip to California, I caught the online auction bug. I was looking for a digital camera and someone suggested OnSale, a US auction site (www.onsale.com). Feeling adventurous and up for some online haggling, I read the FAQs and registered on the site to join the elite club of "bidders".

I immediately got the impression that the site was absolutely heaving with frenzied buyers, with real-time offers flying around at the speed of light. I managed to place a few bids on attractive-looking items, including a Toshiba digital camera, but, seconds later, I was outbid by JP from Cambridge, Massachusetts, who was obviously developing a passion for the same item.

After a couple of attempts I considered giving up and going to a non-auction retail site where I could buy the same item for

more money but without the worry. Just when I was close to giving up, though, my bid managed to outlast others and I got my camera for about 20 per cent less than I would have paid at Fry's superstore in Palo Alto.

Then I tried another site, eBay (www.ebay.com), where I bid for and won a diving trip to Aruba for \$480 (the normal price was \$1,200). I didn't have time to go there, so ended up trading it with a friend for a house-share in Hawaii. But it was great fun anyway. I'm sure Aruba has attracted plenty of accidental travellers thanks to eBay.

The process of bidding (and winning) is quite simple. You register, post your bid and look at the real-time listings to see whether yours is the highest bid. If you get overtaken by a more aggressive bidder, you will know immediately and can take action by upping the stakes. The ego

trip of being shown in the Winner's Circle for 15 minutes, not to mention the trepidation of waiting for the outcome, was far better than simply walking into Dixons and paying the (much higher) recommended retail price for the same item.

Bidding on eBay is fun, but only for those who like to take a risk. OnSale is essentially sales only, and from reputable manufacturers. OnSale manages the relationship between buyer and seller, so if something goes wrong it takes full responsibility.

On the other hand, eBay offers the opportunity to sell as well as buy things on its pages, and doesn't provide much in the way of guarantees for third-party deals. If the product is not up to your sophisticated standards, you are on your own when it comes to getting your money back. There is some vague returns process, but it comes



EVA PASCOE
The best thing is that online auctions bring back the pleasure of haggling in the market

with plenty of severe-looking disclaimers from eBay. I've bought a couple of things on eBay. Both arrived in good shape and within the promised

seven days. But it's definitely not for the faint-hearted. UK buyers can't play, as at present you can't get them to deliver items further than exotic Mexico, which may reflect the average American concept of the End of the World. Beyond Mexico there are monsters and Brits, none of whom merit an extension of eBay's commercial interest.

When I got back to the UK, I tried the Yahoo! auctions, but, sadly, got routed into the US section, where you can't buy if you are a member of the lower form of online life (ie a non-American buyer). Undaunted, I then found a Brit-friendly auction. If you want to play the haggling game, try QXL (www.qxl.co.uk). It is a neat, well-organised service, and the bidding process is quite similar to OnSale.

Where I found it puzzling, though, is that on a few

occasions where I bought items from QXL, the goods didn't really look much like the item in the picture. Only then did I realise that there is a disclaimer pointing out that the illustration is purely ornamental and may not resemble the product itself. I guess QXL wants us to reach that higher level of abstraction, not satisfied with skipping human sales assistant, eliminating the cashier but also removing the association between the picture and the product itself.

There is also a potential hitch when you buy more than one product, as QXL is likely to source them from two or more suppliers, and each of them will bill you separate delivery charges, which is not entirely transparent in the instructions, so you need to watch for that.

I intended to send my purchase to a friend in Poland,

but QXL deals only with EU countries, so I had to do the Royal Mail bit on my own. But even with the cost of my private package, I still saved on the item by buying it on the auction site.

The best thing about online auctions is that they bring back the pleasure of haggling in the market, and create real dialogue between the seller and the buyer. It is quite likely that the popularity of online auctions will influence retailers to take notice and allow some flexibility in the process of arriving at the price. So I am looking forward to haggling in my local Tesco.

So test your nerves on QXL, but make sure you do your research and know the maximum price you are prepared to pay. Otherwise you may be caught up in the bidding frenzy and end up paying more than you would in a shop.

eva@never.com

Lauren Booth found a new role for herself when she discovered the world of online gaming

Just call me Wolverine

I t was 2.30am and I was walking alone down a cold, damp alley. I was relieved when a little man approached and asked if I knew where I was going. When I asked for directions, though, things turned nasty. "New girl round here, eh?" he dribbled menacingly. "Don't waste my time!" With that he spat at me and pushed me over before running away into the pitch dark. This was my first contact with the sometimes violent but always fascinating world of online gaming.

So how did I become a victim of Internet assault? I was lured by advertising, of course. One afternoon, as I sought distraction from my usual bulk buy of celeb mags and political rags, those racks of shiny, blood-red computer magazines with the cover-mounted CDs called my name and promised quick-fix adventures. Back at home, I innocently logged on and was automatically connected to the savagery and joy of the role-play and shoot-'em-up games I had installed on my PC.

So shocking and real was that first online assault – barely eight minutes later – that it left me shaking and upset even after I had turned off my PC and sat sipping black coffee in the kitchen. So furious was I that a stranger had treated me so harshly that I knew I must go back and prove myself no weakling or pushover in the gaming world.

This is how the new state of computer-generated additions begins. With humiliation. Making an error or being a "newbie" in an online game is as potentially devastating an experience as starting a new school dressed in the wrong uniform or laddering your thighs before an interview. There are personal insecurities you have to overcome in virtual zones and the spooky cyber-silence from playmates that greets each tactical error serves to make you more determined to succeed in your new life (perhaps where you failed miserably in your real one). You quickly begin to crave the fix of mutual gaming respect.

After my first online assault, I



I stormed through sewers with a pocketful of grenades, "fragging" every man in sight," says Lauren Booth

Hannah Gal

turned to commando games like *Quake II* to boost my self-confidence. For weeks, I stormed through sewers with a machine gun and pocketful of grenades. "fragging" every man in sight as a superbabe and techno-warrior called "Wolverine". This phase I now think of as my online teenage years. What an overenthusiastic start with no "life" experience I was then. I even chose a female character because, deep down, I believed the male players would feel bad shooting me and perhaps even give me a helping hand. How sweet I was then, and how wrong.

Internet role-play offers the clearest route to witnessing society's current fashions and values firsthand. Clearly, Web equality means that

men and women may all begin as equal players, with the same amount of weapons, but women are still easier to hurt and intimidate, and there are as many men as ever out there who really enjoy hurting women. Still, better online than at home.

I remember with a shiver the first time a man shot me in the back so many times that I exploded into a thousand pulped, pet food-sized pieces. I leapt up from my PC swearing and shocked. "In the back, you creep! How could you?" Then I vowed his ultimate annihilation.

Better than *Life* was a game played by the characters in *Red Dwarf* that involved plugging all of the body's vital systems into a computer and living out your most

magnificent dreams via a modem attached to the brain. The problem was that, while their minds were convinced that they were in *Barbados sipping cocktails* with Kate Moss, their bodies were totally neglected and beginning to die. So as I slumped gorging on a genetically mutated burger and slurping an additive-laden milkshake that episode was brought to mind. The irony didn't have any impact at the time, though. *Wolverine* never gains an ounce and is a fit as a fiddle.

However, my online adventuring may be drawing to a contented close. I fear I'm already approaching gaming middle age. Recently, I discovered a new game called *Ultima Online*. Here you enter

Britannia and attempt to build a life for yourself in the villages and towns of yore old-fashioned world. Suddenly I feel the urge to settle down and start tending cabbages as a hobby. I am considering opening a small school on the east side of town and have even met quite a nice blacksmith who has a two-bedroom cottage of his own. It has taken Kevin, his alter ego, 10 months and 20 hours a week online to achieve a successful career. What a guy!

Weddings are common in Britannia and I feel content just wandering the streets of my newfound homeland and gossiping with neighbours. You see, on the Net even retirement and alternative family life are catered for. And I won't ever have to change a nappy.

WEBSITES

BILL PANNIFER

trAce/Alt-X Hypertext Competition
trace.ntu.ac.uk/hypertext
Art, literature or "multi-sequential writing"? The two winners of the hypertext competition launched last year by the trAce Online Writing Community show all the diversity you might expect from such a wide-open form. *Rice* (www.idaspoetics.com.au/rice/riceheading.html) is really more of a hyperpoem, a series of 16 images of Vietnam that incorporate not only poetry but also voice-over readings, music and sound-effects. There is some haunting and effective Shockwave presentation of text, as a poem about a ferry crossing itself drifts away on screen, with old war broadcasts playing in the background. By contrast, *The Unknown* (www.soa.ucl.ac.uk/user/unknown/trip.htm) is exclusively textual. This saga of three writers on a book tour replaces the traditional linear road trip with something multidirectional, though full of literary in-jokes. There's a hilarious Henry Miller-style rampage through Paris, and the London stop includes a game of pool with Martin Amis. The competition judge, the US writer and academic Robert Coover, is also featured as a minor character, though he insists that this did not affect his final decision.

the floating links in a Java-plumbed word pool. The central conceit is the city as human body – "a monstrous urban foetus thriving off the variegated placenta of England's womb"; there's also much joyless and highly detailed sex, references to Artaud, Timothy Leary and Patrick Kellor, and a surprise skateboarding cat.

All Work and No Play
www.cribbin99.freemove.co.uk
As well as a joke and a Kubrick tribute, this is perhaps the ultimate online anti-novel. Writer's block is the subject, with that terrifyingly banal sentence at the heart of *The Shining* – "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" – here presented thousands of times in various inescapable formations. Readers are challenged to somehow negotiate the linked typographic maze – something the Jack Nicholson character signally failed to do in the movie. But then, he lacked a "back" button on his browser.

AdaFi
www.unde.clara.net/liber.htm
The Web, of course, hosts not just high-profile hypertext experiments but a huge number of more conventional works, posted in the hope of acquiring readers outside normal publishing strictures. This "adaptive fiction finder" offers an alternative to the search engines for finding original novels available for free on the Web. Calling itself "a little shelf in the corner of the global library", it uses index cards to describe content and for further reading suggestions: the links change every so often to send users browsing in different directions. There are only a hundred or so titles so far, but submissions are welcome and authors requested to review each others work.

websites@dircom.co.uk

Jason Cranford Teague's column returns next week

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THE INFORMATION DAILY

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NEW FILMS

BEYOND SILENCE (12)

Director: Caroline Link
Starring: Sylvie Testud, Howie Seago
Caroline Link's fine domestic drama (Oscar-nominated in 1997) revolves around the dynamics of the uncommon German household headed by able-bodied Lara (played by Tatjana Trieb as a child, Sylvie Testud as an adult), who acts as a representative for her deaf mum and dad (Emmanuelle Béart, Howie Seago). Unshowy acting and a keen eye for telling detail help to keep the sentiment at bay.
West End: ABC Swiss Centre

BLAST FROM THE PAST (12)

Director: Hugh Wilson
Starring: Brendan Fraser, Alicia Silverstone, Sissy Spacek, Christopher Walken
Less a blast than a faint pop, Hugh Wilson's workmanlike Cold War satire sees Brendan Fraser's last American man (called Adam, natch) emerging from the nuclear bunker his parents (Christopher Walken, Sissy Spacek) had holed up in during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Trouble is, of course, that the Bomb didn't get dropped, and California is still there (albeit in radically altered form). So off goes bewildered Adam through this brave new world, soon finding a sassy Eve in Alicia Silverstone's knowing Valley Girl, as a decent set-up nosedives into brass predictability.
West End: Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

THE NIGHT OF THE HUNTER (12)

Director: Charles Laughton
Starring: Robert Mitchum
Conceived by its creator as "a nightmarish sort of Mother Goose tale", Charles Laughton's 1955 drama (his only stab at directing) proved altogether too rich and strange a brew for the neat, Formica tastes of McCarthy era USA. Now an acknowledged classic, *The Night of the Hunter* hinges on a legendary bit of screen villainy from Robert Mitchum as the tale's murderous preacher, LOVE and HATE tattooed across his knuckles, and chasing two imperilled orphans (Billy Chapin, Jane Bruce) into the arms of Lillian Gish's saintly fairy-godmother. What might have been a run-of-the-mill thriller is conjured into the realms of fantasy by Laughton's skewed child's-eye vision, his Old Testament bombast and a ripe storybook style best evidenced in the kids' otherworldly trip downriver. This is a haunting, wholly unique thing: a mescal hallelujah sung over an empty crib.
West End: Curzon Soho, Repertory: The Pullman Everyman

PLUNKETT AND MACLEANE (15)

Director: Jake Scott
Starring: Robert Carlyle, Jonny Lee Miller
Plunkett and Macleane (Carlyle and Lee Miller) are rakish Dick Turpins cutting a dash through 18th-century society. They rob the rich and keep the loot. Plunkett packs a pistol and scowls a lot. Macleane romances a shapely debutante (Liv Ullmann). Their adventures come choreographed to a thumping techno beat. And yet beneath all the powder, the frills, the ruffles and the wigs, *Plunkett and Macleane* is a pretty plain-looking costume, shuffling along on a puny prop of a plotline that gets increasingly bent out of shape. As a substitute, director Jake (son of Ridley) offers noise, colour and virtuoso pop-promo visuals, while leaning heavily on the winning chemistry between his two stars (re-united from *Trainspotting*). Ultimately, it's Carlyle and Lee Miller that keep it palatable.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas

TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG)

Director: Franco Zeffirelli
Starring: Maggie Smith, Joan Plowright, Judi Dench, Cher
Zeffirelli's clearly been at the Chianti again. His *Tea with Mussolini* is a typically squiffy and loquacious affair, ambulating around the houses during its tale of three dotty Brits (Maggie Smith, Judi Dench, Joan Plowright) adrift in Mussolini-era Tuscany. One senses that somewhere deep down in his consciousness, Zef has some points to make about fascism, and about the contrast between British fortitude and Yankee grit (represented by Cher's vital American vamp). But just as he seems to be nearing some thematic breakthrough, *Tea With Mussolini* turns all syrupy again. The scenery slips into a golden haze. The dialogue turns slurred and drippy incoherent. The acting goes off into a series of mannered tics: the starts, twitches and adjustments of a body already half-asleep.
West End: Barbican Screen, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Local: Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Hampstead ABC, Richmond Odeon Studio, Streatham ABC, Sutton UCI 6, UCI Surrey Quays

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

AFFLICTION (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Piccadilly.

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18)

A liberal essay on right-wing fanaticism, this nonetheless indulges in some dubious Nazi chic as it charts the moral slide and conversion of a blue-collar racist (Edward Norton). **West End:** Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

APRIL (12)

Aprile freewheels through three years in Italian politics. Impossible to pigeonhole, with its realist/absurdist rhythms, it bows out with a finale that's both ridiculous and charming. **West End:** Metro, Renoir

ARLINGTON ROAD (15)

Mark Pellington's paranoia thriller sees Jeff Bridges' college professor becoming suspicious about his "respectable" neighbour (Tim Robbins). Pellington is big on skewed camera angles, yet rings too few changes in his film's familiar territory. **West End:** ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

AN AUTUMN TALE (CONTE D'AUTUMNE) (U)

The final part of Eric Rohmer's *Tales of the Four Seasons* is at once airily elegiac and as warm as sunshine. Magali (Beatrice Roman) gets ushered through all manner of hoops as her friends try to set her up with eligible men. **West End:** Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Curzon Soho, Renoir. Repertory: Phoenix Cinema

CENTRAL STATION (15)

A road-movie of sorts, *Central Station* trails Fernanda Montenegro's retired schoolmarm and her abandoned nine-year-old charge on a hunt for the boy's missing father. **West End:** Curzon Mayfair, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre

FESTEN (THE CELEBRATION) (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End:** ABC Panton Street, Curzon Soho

GODS AND MONSTERS (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Fulham Road. Local: New Stratford Picture House

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA E BELLA) (PG)

In Roberto Benigni's Oscar-winning comedy, the writer-director takes center stage as a clowning Jewish bookseller in fascist Italy. Sent to a death camp, he strives to convince his son that it's all no more than an eccentric game. **West End:** ABC Swiss Centre, Empire Leicester Square, Curzon Minima, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen

on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. Virgin Haymarket, Repertory: Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas

MIGHTY JOE (PG)

Disposable Disney fluff - *King Kong* with a smile - with a ready charm that's hard to dislike. **West End:** Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

PAYBACK (18)

Rumbling revenge thriller that sends its double-crossed-and-left-for-dead anti-hero (Mel Gibson) on a mission to retrieve the money he's owed and to get even into the bargain. **West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

PLEASANTVILLE (12)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End:** Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

THE RUGRATS MOVIE (U)

Given the small-screen success of the 'rats (cartoon toddlers), a feature-length foray was always in the offing. Neatly timed for the Easter holidays. **West End:** Odeon Marble Arch, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End:** Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

THE THIN RED LINE (15)

Good news: Ned, a salt-of-the-earth resident of Tullymore has won the lottery. Bad news: Ned is dead. Cue a rattle-bag of comedic misadventures as two local scallywags scheme to get their paws on the loot. **West End:** Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Chelsea. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18)

A cast of Britain's finest (Kathy Burke, Ian Hart, Douglas Henshall et al) weave to and fro through David Kane's Camden-set essay on urban romance. **West End:** Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Ritzy Cinema. And local cinemas

WAKING NED (PG)

Good news: Ned, a salt-of-the-earth resident of Tullymore has won the lottery. Bad news: Ned is dead. Cue a rattle-bag of comedic misadventures as two local scallywags scheme to get their paws on the loot. **West End:** Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Chelsea. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Gods and Monsters (15)

A droll speculation on the last days of 1930s horror auteur James Whale (Ian McKellen), who is magnetised by the form of his gardener (Brendan Fraser). Director Bill Condon won an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.

Pleasantville (12)

Two Nineties teenagers are "sucked" into the world of a favourite Fifties sitcom and begin to exert a dramatic influence on its conformist black-and-white idyll. A witty parable about prejudice and change.

Festen (15)

Danish director Thomas Vinterberg's superlative black comedy (*right*) centres on the 60th birthday of a family patriarch who finds himself at the heart of dark secrets that unexpectedly emerge.

Affliction (15)

Paul Schrader's bleak, Oscar-winning study in fatherhood and fatalism stars Nick Nolte as a man struggling to escape the influence of his violent dad - James Coburn (Best Supporting Actor).

Shakespeare in Love (15)

This enjoyable, Oscar-laden historical romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow (Best Actress) head an impressive cast.



ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Good (Donmar Warehouse)

Starring Charles Dance, CP Taylor's play about accommodations with conscience is revived in an immaculate and sensitive production by Michael Grandage. To 22 May

Gross Indecency (Gielgud Theatre, London)

The artfully fractured form of Moises Kaufman's compelling play about Oscar Wilde manages to present the writer - man and symbol - in all his complex contradictoriness. *Booking to 5 Jun*

The Late Middle Classes (Palace Theatre, Watford)

The fruitful collaboration between Simon Gray and Harold Pinter continues with the latter's production of Gray's dark comedy set in 1950s England. To 10 Apr

Volpone (Swan Theatre, Stratford)

Comedies don't come any funnier or more ardent than Ben Jonson's brilliant dissection of avaricious, over-reaching egotism (*right*). To 9 Oct

Troilus and Cressida (Oliver, NT, London)

This play and this theatre are made for each other, a fact proved by the mastery sweep of Trevor Nunn's production. To 19 May

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Jack Pollock (Tate Gallery)

Big, revelatory retrospective for the wild hero of Abstract Expressionism (going on Old Master), legendary for his great drip paintings, but virtually unknown here for 40 years. To 6 Jun

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)

Some of the smartest, most intense portraiture ever (*right*). Men as icons of power, women as exquisite *melanges* of flesh and fabric. To 25 Apr

Henri Michaux (Whitechapel Gallery)

He travelled. He wrote. He took drugs. And, inspired by grief and mescaline, he created amazing, wobbly bobbly wobbly scribbly fine-grain line drawings. To 25 Apr

Andreas Gursky (Dean Gallery, Edinburgh)

Photographs 1994-98: huge, panoramic, high-finish, micro-detailed, digitally-manipulated images of our world - stock-exchange floor, cityscape, hotel foyer. Vistas of more than the eye can see. To 16 May

Aubrey Beardsley (Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool)

The short and brilliant career of the 1890s aesthete and illustrator, with his masterful blacks and whites and his uniquely sinuous, florid line. To 11 Apr



TOM LUBBOCK

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC PANTON STREET

(0770-902 0404) @ Piccadilly
Circus The 39 Steps (1935 Version) 1.25pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm, 10.10pm
Festen (15) 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm, 10.10pm
Jodie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-437 3561) @ Piccadilly
Circus The 39 Steps (1935 Version) 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm, 10.10pm
Festen (15) 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm, 10.10pm
Jodie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE

(0770-902 0402) @ Leicester
Square/Tottenham Court Road
Arlington Road 1.05pm, 3.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
Elizabeth 1.40pm, 5.15pm, 8.20pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0770-902 0403) @ Leicester
Square/Piccadilly Circus Beyond Silence (Henshall et al) 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm, 10.10pm
Festen (15) 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm, 10.10pm
Jodie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm

ABC TOTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0171-437 3561) @ Tottenham
Court Road Gods and Monsters 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm, 10.10pm
Payback 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm
Plunkett and Macleane 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm

BARBICAN SCREEN

(0171-538 8891) @ Moorgate/
Barbican An Autumn Tale (Conte d'Autonne) 6.15pm, 8.40pm
Dancing at Lughnasa 2pm
Sweeney Barret 4pm
Tea with Mussolini 3pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA

(0171-351 3742) @ Sloane
Square An Autumn Tale (Conte d'Autonne) 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(0171-498 3323) @ Clapham
Common An Autumn Tale (Conte d'Autonne) 6.15pm, 8.40pm
Dancing at Lughnasa 2pm
Sweeney Barret 4pm
Tea with Mussolini 3pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

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Dancing at Lughnasa 2pm
Sweeney Barret 4pm
Tea with Mussolini 3pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

(0770-050007) @ Camden Town
American History X 12.15pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm
A Bug's Life 11.55am, 1.55pm, 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

(0770-050007) @ High Street
Kensington American History X 12.15pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm
A Bug's Life 11.55am, 1.55pm, 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE

(0770-050007) @ Leicester
Square Plunkett and Macleane 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH

(0770-050007) @ Marble Arch
A Bug's Life 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm

ODEON MEZZANINE

(0770-050007) @ Leicester
Square A Bug's Life 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

(0770-050007) @ Swiss
Cottage American History X 12.15pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm
A Bug's Life 11.55am, 1.55pm, 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm

ODEON TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0770-050007) @ Tottenham
Court Road American History X 12.15pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm
A Bug's Life 11.55am, 1.55pm, 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm

ODEON VICTORIA

(0770-050007) @ Victoria
American History X 12.15pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm
A Bug's Life 11.55am, 1.55pm, 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm

ODEON WHITELEYS

(0770-050007) @ Bayswater/
Queensway American History X 12.15pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm
A Bug's Life 11.55am, 1.55pm, 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm

ODEON WIMBORNE

(0770-050007) @ Bayswater/
Queensway American History X 12.15pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm
A Bug's Life 11.55am, 1.55pm, 3.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm

ODEON WIMBORNE

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ODEON WIMBORNE

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GOLDERS GREEN
ABC (0181 455 4134) • Golders
Green Park 6.10pm, 8.35pm
The Rugrats Movie 2pm, 4pmGREENWICH
CINEMA (0181-293
0101) BR: Greenwich A Bug's
Life 11.50am, 1.40pm La Vita è Bella
7pm Little Voice 2.30pm Madeline
12.45pm Mighty Joe 12noon,
2.15pm Payback 4.25pm, 6.45pm,
9pm Plunkett and Macleane 3.30pm,
5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm Shake-
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Park American History X 8.15pm
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Vita è Bella 5.45pm, 8.30pm The
Rugrats Movie 2pm, 4pm, 6pm,
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Dil Mein Rehte Hain Hum Spar
International Khilad 8.45pm
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VILLAGE (0181-427
9009) • Harrow-on-the-Hill
American History X 9.40pm Blast
from the Past 12.30pm, 3.10pm,
5.50pm, 8.30pm A Bug's Life
9.50am, 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm,
Jack Frost 11.30am Madeline
10.10am Mighty Joe 10am,
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Adams 9.30pm Payback 12.30pm,
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Plunkett and Macleane 12.20pm,
3pm, 6.10pm, 9pm The Prince of
Egypt 10.50am The Rugrats Movie
9.50am, 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm,
7.10pm Shakespeare in Love
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The Thin Red Line 9.10pm Waking
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You've Got Me! 6.50pmHOLLOWAY
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You've Got Me! 6.50pmTHEATRE
WEST ENDTicket availability details are for to-
day: times and prices for the week
running times include intervals
• Seats at all prices • Returns only
Matinees — [1] Sun, [3] Tue, [4]
Wed, [5] Thur, [6] Fri, [7] Sat• AMATEURS David Suchet stars
as Sabini in Peter Shaffer's drama.
Old Vic. Tue. SE1 (0171-494
5372/cc 494 5372) BR • Waterloo.
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7]
3pm, £7.50-£30. 180 mins.• ANIMAL CRACKERS Stage ver-
sion of the Marx Brothers classic
from the Royal Exchange Theatre.
Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue. WI
(0171-494 5045) • Picc. Circ. Mon-
Sat 7.45pm, [4] 7.30pm, £9.50-£30.
150 mins.• BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish
family musical based on Disney's
cartoon version of the favourite fairy
tale. Dominion Tottenham Court
Road. WI (0171-656 1888) • Tot.
Ct. Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.15pm,
2.30pm, £18.50-£35. 150 mins.• BLOOD BROTHERS Wily Rus-
sell's long-running Liverpool musical
melodrama. Phoenix Charing
Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733)
• Leic. Sq/Tot. Ct. Rd. Mon-Sat
7.45pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £11.50-
£32.50. 165 mins.• CATS Lloyd Webber's long-run-
ning musical version of TS Eliot's poems.
New London Park Street. WC2
(0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079)
• Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat
7.45pm, [3] 7.30pm, £10.50-£35.
165 mins.• CHICAGO Maria Friedman and
Peter Davidson star in this hit Broad-
way musical about two murderesses
setting up a nightclub. Adelphi
Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344
0055) • Charing X. Mon-Sat
8pm, [4] 7.30pm, £16-£36 (inc
booking fee). 130 mins.• COPENHAGEN New drama
from Michael Frayn about the
cowboy of the atom. Duchess Cath-
arine Street. WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc
344 4444) • Covent Garden.
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5] 7.15pm, 2.30pm.
£10-£30. 145 mins.• DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN
Mark Little stars in this witty and
wise comedy about the differences
between the sexes. Apollo Shaftes-
bury Avenue. WI (0171-494 5070)
• Picc. Circ. Mon-Thur 8pm, Fri-Sat
8pm & 8.45pm, £5-£25. concs
available.• THE GIN GAME Frith Banbury
directs Joanne and Dorothy
Tutin in this sensitive and funny
drama. Juggernaut at the
Leaky Gully. Royal Court. Savoy
Strand. WC2 (0171-336 8888/cc
836 0479) BR • Charing X/Em-
bankment. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 7.30pm,
ends 5pm, £9.50-£27.50.• GOOD CHARLES Dance stars in CP
Taylor's deceptively humorous dra-
ma as a German professor impress-
ing the Nazis. Donmar Warehouse
Earlham Street. WC2 (0171-369
1732) • Covent Garden. Mon-Sat
7.30pm, [5] 7.15pm, ends 22 May.
£14-£22. concs available.• GREASE Energetic stage version
of the hit film about a 1950s school
romance at the notorious Rydell
High. With Darren Day. Cambridge
Theatre. WC2 (0171-494 5080)
• Covent Garden. Mon-Sat
7.30pm, [4] 7.15pm, £10-£32.50.
150 mins.• GROSS INDECENCY: THE
THREE TRIALS OF OSCAR
WILDE Michael Pennington and
William Hootland in Moises Kauf-
man's reconstruction of the
dramatization of the celebrated playwright.
Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue. WI
(0171-494 5065) • Picc. Circ.
Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 7.30pm, £7.50-
£29.50.• AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen
Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-
tion of JB Priestley's atmospheric
thriller. Garrick Charing Cross Road.
WC2 (0171-494 5085) • Leic. Sq.
Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4]
2.30pm, [7] 5pm, £12-£29.50.
110 mins.• MACBETH Rufus Sewell and
Sally Dexter headline John Crowley's
atmospherically lit portrait of the war-
torn ambition

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY RADIO

RADIO 1 (97.5-99.5MHz FM)
9.00 Chris Moyles. 10.00 Scott Mills. 10.30 The Official UK Top 40 - the Year So Far. 11.00 Lamacq Live. See Pick of the Day. 12.00 The Breeze. 1.00 Joe Warren. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2 (88-92MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Songs of the Century with Paul Gambaccini. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.00 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton. 8.00 Big Band Special. 8.30 Jools Holland. 9.30 Joe Brown: Let It Rock. 10.30 Richard Ainsworth. 12.00 Mo Dutt. 3.00 - 4.00 Alex Lester.

RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. See Pick of the Day. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Benjamin Britten. (R) 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Live from the Wigmore Hall, London, beginning a new season of chamber concerts. Thomas Allen (baritone), Malcolm Martineau (piano). Haydn: Sailer's Song; Recollections: She never told her love; Piercing Eyes: Content (Original Carzonettes). Beethoven: An die ferne Geliebte, Op 98. Wolf: Harfen-Spieler Lieber; Analoren Grab (Goethe Lieder); Russische; Der Gartner; Abschied (Morike Lieder). 2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 4.00 Opera in Action. 5.00 In Tune. 7.30 Performance on 3. Chris de Souza introduces a concert given last month in Symphony Hall, Birmingham, as part of the 'Towards the Millennium' festival. The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and conductor Simon Rattle introduce and perform Nicholas Maw's 'Odysey'. 9.35 Postscript. Five explorations by Ian Christie of how cinema has continued the literary and visual tradition of apocalypse, reflecting the 20th Century's own history of catastrophe and its search for meaning in an increasingly secular world through a variety of forms, both traditional and innovative. 1: 'The Sense of an End'.

PICK OF THE DAY

MARTIN JARVIS, who has now recorded some 100 of Richard Crompton's stories, reads "April Fool's Day" in Just William (9.45am R4FM), as part of a series marking the 80th anniversary of the character's first appearance. It contains a line that seems to sum up the eternal frustration of childhood: "I don't think there's a single place left to play in England which hasn't got a house next to it, nor ready to make a fuss the minute your ball goes into its garden."

With their hit single "Mulder and Scully" sounding more dated by the hour, Catatonia (right) headline Radio 1's weekend in London in Lamacq Live (7pm R1).

Sound Stories (11am R3) this week focuses on cathedrals, beginning with Canterbury.

DOMINIC CAVENTISH



11.00 NEWS: My Dad's Diary. **11.30 Full Moon.** **12.00 NEWS:** You and Yours. **12.57 Weather.** **1.00 The World at One.** **1.30 Mastermind.** **2.00 NEWS:** The Archers. **2.15 Play:** Five Children and It. **3.45 This Scattered Isle (R)** **4.00 NEWS:** The Food Programme. **4.30 Four Corners.** **5.00 PM.** **5.57 Weather.** **6.30 Six O'Clock News.** **6.30 Quota. Unquota.** **7.00 NEWS:** The Archers. **7.35 Front Row.** Mark Lawson talks to Gore Vidal, who speaks about his life and career - from the ambitions of his political family to his mammoth historical novels covering the sweep of American history. As the first biography of Vidal is published, he takes stock of his five decades at the heart of American culture. **7.45 Diary of a Provincial Lady.** By E M Delaford, dramatised by Jane Rogers. The everyday 1930s journal of how to run a house, a husband, a cook, a nanny, two children, bothersome neighbours, irritating relatives, and still manage to keep your sanity and your green fingers. With Imelda Staunton, Richard Hope and Susan Brown. Director Clive Brill (1/15). **8.00 NEWS:** Race to Do Better. The Macpherson Report on the Lawrence Enquiry defined institutional racism. In the first of two programmes, Ferdinand Dennis examines how organisations can be racist, and looks at the effects of anti-racist legislation in Britain.

8.30 Analysis. 'Beyond the Pale'. Joblessness, poverty, no network of friends and family - Julian Le Grand asks how we can define social exclusion in a meaningful way which is capable of remedy. **9.00 NEWS:** Spring Watch. Nick Baker is back on the trail of the swallow, as he follows the advance of spring from south to north, guided by calls, questions and springtime sightings from the audience. This week he starts in East Anglia. **9.30 Start the Week.** Jeremy Paxman and his guests set the cultural agenda for the week. **10.00 The World Tonight.** **10.45 Book at Bedtime:** Archangel. Robert Harris's thriller is read by Alan Howard. A spectre is haunting the new Russia - Joseph Stalin. At midnight in a Moscow hotel room, Professor Fluke Kelsa is listening to a story that could make or break his reputation. If it is true, Stalin is about to return from the grave (1/10). **11.00 Plunger.** By Johnny Meres. Thirty-nine-year-old office worker Mike Wainwright is making his first parachute jump. Unfortunately, it also looks like his last. With Johnny Meres, James Bryce and Monica Gibb. **11.30 Crossing Over.** **12.00 News.** **12.30 The Late Book:** Earthly Joys. **12.48 Shipping Forecast.** **1.00 As World Service.** **5.30 World News.** **5.35 Shipping Forecast.** **5.40 Inshore Forecast.** **5.45 Prayer for the Day.** **5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.**

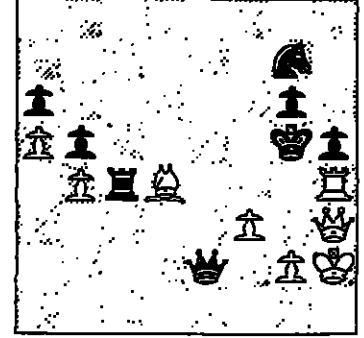
INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

ONE OF the most enjoyable ways of studying chess is solving - or even just browsing - tactical puzzles. So I was delighted recently to receive a new and innovative collection. "Mitrofanov's Deflection" is the third in a projected series of five entitled *The Tactician's Handbook*, by the correspondence IM Victor Charusin of Nizhny Novgorod, translated by the grandmaster Anatoly Lein (Pickard and Sons, US, \$13.50). It is hard to find in a general bookshop, but the series is available from both the London Chess Centre (0171-388-2404) and the BCM Chess Shop (0171-603-2877).

In his third volume Charusin presents a delightful collection of deflections, starting from the magnificent study below, a firm favourite which I published here six months ago but certainly bears repeating.



K Jung vs J Sabados Budapest 1952

White to play and win

L. Mitrofanov 1967
1 b6+ Ka8 7 Qg5!! Qxg5+
2 Re1! Nxe1 8 Ka6 Bxa7
3 g7 h1Q 9 c7 Qa5+
4 g8Q+ Bb8 10 Kxa5 Bxb6+
5 a7 Nc6+ 11 Kxb6
6 dxc6 Qxb5+

1 Bxg7! Rxb1 2 Qxb4+!! Kxb4 3 Bf6+ g5 4 Bc3! Qe2 5 Be5 1-0
2 Bf6+ Kxb4 3 Qxb4+ led to an equal game ending but 2 Qxb4+ forces mate! At the end if 5...g4 6 Bf6 mate; or 5...Qe1 6 g3+ Qxg3+ 7 Bxg3 mate.

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

"WELL DONE, partner!" exclaimed East after South's game contract had been defeated on this deal. West looked blank but had sufficient savoir faire not to ask what it was that he had done that was apparently so good.

South opened One Spade and went on to game after West had passed and North had raised to Three Spades. West led ♠K against Four Spades, and it was clear to declarer that his best chance of success lay in developing the diamonds without letting East into the lead for a potentially fatal heart switch. So he held off the first trick and won the club continuation.

South drew trumps in two rounds, ending in dummy, and led a diamond, finessing the queen when East played low. Usually you take a finesse in the hope that it will win but, in the present situation, declarer would have been only too happy to see West (the safe hand) win with ♠K. Not only did ♠Q hold, but West then followed suit with the ten.

Why had West played the ten, which might have been a significant card? Simple - it had been drummed into him that he should play high-low with a doubleton in order to help his partner count the hand. Here, however, his unblock-

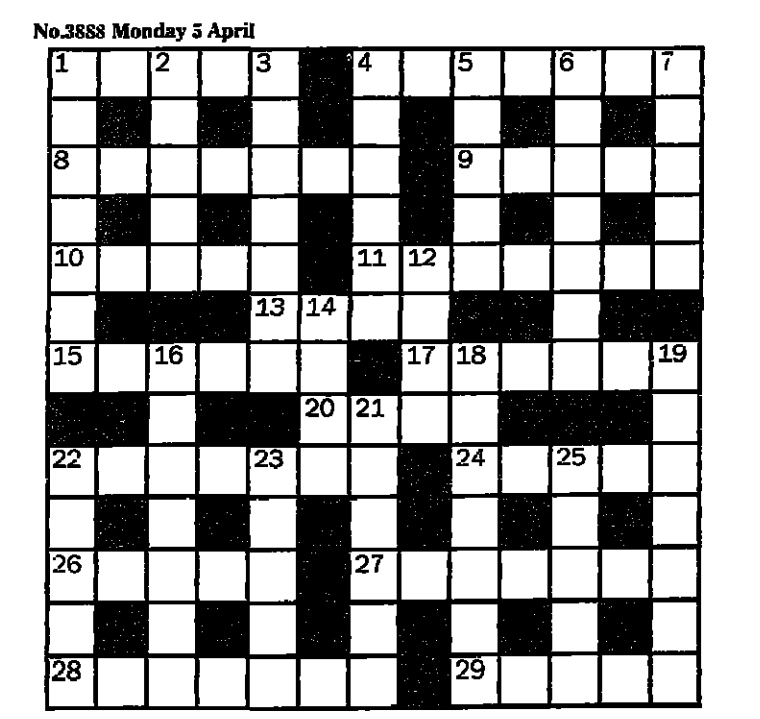
ing play of the ten had a dramatic effect, for East, with ♠K9 still sitting over dummy's jack, was bound to gain the lead after which his return of ♠Q scuppered the contract.

Just consider what would have happened if West had retained his ♠10 and followed to the first round of the suit with his three. Declarer crosses to dummy with a trump and leads a second diamond. When East's nine appears, he ducks and West is forced to overtake with his ten. After this, the defenders would only be able to take their ace of hearts.

Game all; dealer South

North	
♠A 9 7 4	
♥8 2	
♦J 8 6 5 2	
♣A 6	
East	
♠10 2	
♥A 6 5 3	
♦10 3	
♣K 10 3 2	
South	
♠K Q 8 5 3	
♥K 7 4	
♦A Q 8	
♣8 5	

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Besmirch (5)
2 Posers (7)
3 Italian dish (7)
4 Coral reef (5)
10 Rodent (5)
11 Less watertight (7)
13 Long grass (4)
15 Nullify (6)
17 Of the teeth (6)
20 Ballads (4)
22 Instrumentalist (7)
24 Snake (5)
26 First (5)
27 Persecute (7)
28 Edge of road (7)
29 German city (5)

DOWN

1 Chemical element (7)
2 Full-blooded (5)
3 Dairy product (7)
4 Static (6)
5 Jewelled headdress (5)
6 Self-centred person (7)
7 Of the sun (5)
12 Whirlpool (4)
14 Fishes (4)
16 Solemnity (7)
18 Fugitive (7)
19 Affair (7)
21 Reception (2,4)
23 Tropical fruit (5)
25 Ancient British tribe (5)
26 Decoys (5)

Solution to last Saturday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1 Tree, 3 Shock (Toiseach), 7 Pleasant, 8 Exam, 9 Relationship, 10 Useful, 12 Toepack, 14 Troublemaker, 18 Abet, 19 Nuisance, 20 North, 21 Set, DOWN: 1 T-shirts, 2 E-mail, 3 Set-to, 4 Oversee, 5 Khaki, 6 Ductily, 11 Fluster, 12 Tomit, 13 Apron, 15 Robin, 16 Lunch, 17 Rests.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

WHAT BETTER way to spend a Bank Holiday Monday than in the company of Ewan McGregor (right). A evening of his work kicks off with the premiere of *A Life Less Ordinary* (10pm FilmFour), his third film with Danny Boyle, Andrew Macdonald and John Hodge. In this delicious black comedy wittily directed by Boyle, McGregor plays a disaffected cleaner who tries to boost his fortunes by kidnapping the boss's daughter (the delightful



Cameron Diaz). At the same time, in a typically surreal touch, two angels (Holly Hunter and Delroy Lindo) are trying their damndest to make the couple fall in love. This is followed by McGregor's two previous efforts with the same creative team, the murderously dark comedy *Shallow Grave* (11.50pm) and the startlingly innocent drug drama, *Trainspotting* (1.10am), which features Robert Carlyle.

JAMES RAMPTON

SKY PREMIER
8.00 Courage Mountain (1990) (83365).
9.00 Home Alone (1990) (84465). 10.00 Bear (1997) (77853). 11.00 Courage Mountain (1990) (84476). 1.25 Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997) (85382). 3.30 Barry Norman's Film Night (1992). 4.00 Home Alone (1990) (84465). 5.00 Bean (1997) (82230). 6.00 Liar Liar (1997) (71747). 10.00 Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997) (85382). 12.00 The Crossing Guard (1995) (75033). 1.55 An Eye for an Eye (1996) (83472). 3.40 - 6.00 Rich Man's Wife (1996) (876033).

SKY MOVIE MAX
7.00 Love is Strange (1998) (82372). 9.00 Married to a Stranger (1997) (82383). 11.00 Love is Strange (1998) (82372). 3.00 Married to a Stranger (1997) (82383). 5.00 Love is Strange (1998) (82372). 7.00 Married to a Stranger (1997) (82383). 9.00 Love is Strange (1998) (82372). 11.00 Married to a Stranger (1997) (82383). 1.00 The Crossing Guard (1995) (75033). 3.00 Nothing but the Truth (1994) (82725). 5.00 Close.

SKY CINEMA
4.00 Pardon Us (1931) (755853). 6.00 Jazzy the Fox-Less (1933) (835214). 8.00 Heat and Dust (1963) (836139). 10.45 Macon County Line (1973) (828905). 11.50 The Lion in Winter (1968) (822438). 2.05 Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Code (1949) (850883). 4.40 Hollywood Hell of Fame (1976) (83743). 5.00 Nothing but the Truth (1994) (82725). 7.00 Close.

FILMFOUR
6.00 A Bout de Souffle (1960) (868016). 8.00 Only You (1994) (868563). 10.00 A Life Less Ordinary (1997) (873673). See Pick of the Day. 11.50 Shallow Grave (1994) (850883). See Pick of the Day. 1.20 Return Ticket (1995). 4.40 Trainspotting (1996) (82725). See Pick of the Day. 3.30 Transcendence (1972). 3.35 The Sub Boys (1997) (868563). 4.50 - 6.00 Outrageous Taxi Stories (197005).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures (1997). 4.30 The Dismen (1995). 5.00 Best of Britain (1995). 6.00 Wildlife SOS (19705). 6.30 Unlabeled Amazonia (1994). 7.30 Fightin' (1995). 8.00 Beyond the Truth (1995). 8.30 Myths and Mysteries (19705). 10.00 Nazis: the Occult Con-

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 SCOTLAND
As BBC1 LONDON except: 5.45 News (252223). 5.40 Reporting Scotland; Weather (147037).

BBC1 WALES
As BBC1 LONDON except: 5.50 Stereophones - Cwmaman Feol the Noise (1997). 10.50 The Bay City Rollers - Remember? (1989). 11.30 Match of the Day (56621). 12.40 Film: Four Eyes and Six Gums: Amusing Wyatt Eard ym watching Wild West fan Judge Reinhold heading for some shoot-out fun in Tombstone after losing his city-based optician's job. Fred Ward is the booze-addicted marshal whose now too short-sighted to aim straight in a little made-for-cable cracker. (198709). 2.45 John's BBC News 24 (8623457).

ANGLIA
As Carlton except: 1.30 Shortland Street (45766). 6.15 Meridian News and Weather (199853). 6.20 ITV Evening News; Weather (199853). 7.35 ITV Nightly News; Weather (199501). 11.30 Anglia News and

Weather (172853). 11.35 Film: The Lawnmower Man: Gardener Jeff Fahy blossoms in Pierce Brosnan's Virtual Reality experiments. Dazzling computer animation props up weedy plot (147785). 1.30 Film: Cookie: Thinly stretched New York sitcom with teenager Emily Lloyd meeting mobster dad Peter Falk for the first time (19877). 3.40 World Football: A round-up of the best football action from around the world, from South America to Europe. Including news, interviews, and features on some of the game's lesser-known characters (147785). 3.40 Film: You Pay Your Money* Arab buddies kidnap a girl involved in a rare-books smuggling case. Wooden B-features with Jane Hylton, Hugh McDermott (1946902). 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (25317780). 5.00 Coronation Street (46438).

CENTRAL
As Carlton except: 1.30 Campus Cops (45766). 6.15 Central News (199853). 11.30 Central News and Weather (172853). 3.50 Jobfinder (177663). 5.20 Asian Eye (1986490).

HTV WALES
As Carlton except: 1.30 Shortland Street (45766). 6.15 HTV News and Weather (172853). 11.35 Film: The Lawnmower Man (147785). 1.30 Film: Cookie (19877). 3.40 Film: You Pay Your Money* Arab buddies kidnap a girl involved in a rare-books smuggling case. Wooden B-features with Jane Hylton, Hugh McDermott (1946902). 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (25317780). 5.00 Coronation Street (46438).

NTV WEST
As HTV Wales except: 11.30 HTV News and Sport (172853).

MERIDIAN
As Carlton except: 1.30 Shortland Street (45766). 6.15 Meridian News and Weather (199853). 6.20 ITV Evening News; Weather (147785). 11.35 Meridian News and Weather (172853). 3.50 Film: Cookie (19877). 3.40 Film: You Pay Your Money* Arab buddies kidnap a girl involved in a rare-books smuggling case. Wooden B-features with Jane Hylton, Hugh McDermott (1946902). 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (25317780). 5.00 Coronation Street (46438).

WESTCOUNTRY
As Carlton except: 1.15 ITV Lunchtime News; Weather (199853). 1.30 Bugs Bunny's Easter Funnies (45766). 6.15 Westcountry News (199853). 11.30 Westcountry News (172853). 11.35 Film: The Lawnmower Man (147785). 1.30 Film: Cookie (19877). 3.40 World Football (147785). 3.40 Film: You Pay Your Money* Arab buddies kidnap a girl involved in a rare-books smuggling case. Wooden B-features with Jane Hylton, Hugh McDermott (1946902). 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (25317780). 5.00 Coronation Street (46438).

YORKSHIRE
As Carlton except: 1.30 Coronation Street (45766). 6.15 Calendar News (172853). 4.55 Jobfinder (177663). 5.00 North East News (172853).

TYNE TEES
As Yorkshire except: 6.15 North East News and Weather (199853). 11.30 North East News (172853).

S4C
As Channel 4 except: 6.00 Sesame Street (86562018). 12.00 Dawson's Creek. (82631056). 12.55 Plained Plant (15136582). 1.25 Classic Cars (19323689). 1.55 The Magical Making of Merin (197121). 4.30 Montel Williams (19959583). 5.00 Plained Plant (14971761). 5.30 Countdown (19951343). 6.00 Newyddion (19951343). 6.10 Heno (19953308). 7.30 Pobl y Cwm (19984940). 7.30 Newyddion (19951343). 7.45 Film: Porc Por: Engaging drama about the trials and tribulations of a young man who creates havoc wherever he goes. In this yarn, he plays in the local brass band and impersonates a famous surgeon. (19312101). 8.45 Glyn Clwyd (19312101). 9.15 Sgorio (19936123). 10.20 Merin. A star-studded, spectacular two-part drama which recounts the legend of the mythical sorcerer using an array of stunning special effects. (19950418). 12.10 The Real Merin (18426167). 11.0 The Long Good Friday (19362457). 1.55 Close.

PM

Channel 5

to the supporting cast (S) (885699)


11.50 Title (S) (I) (644360), **42.15 Balance**
BBC Learning Zone: Open Under
Twelve? (I) (658082), **1.00 Left and
Wolves and Antwerp - The Cilla's
2.00** Evan Reichen: GCSE Biology
3. Chemistry (I) (82235), **4.00** La
1. & 12 (82457), **5.00** Business at
Work (E838782), **5.45** Open Under
Score (808407), To Eithen.

4.45 Binnick
Basil Goble
Scotland
(r) (c) 44
The Cinema
4.45 FILM
US; Musicals
Involved
Very funny
5.55 Sesame

Selected from the 1990s, then later before those around him, and James at his titular urges. **Strictly Kitty** (6:35/5:05A).

American Ice Hockey: New Jersey Devils v New York Rangers (S) (8:07/3:45T, 4:00 Live vlogage (continued) (S) (8:59/4:00), 5:30 Beastly (S) (S) (T) (6:03/2:35). To beam.

TELEVISION GUIDE BY PETER CONNOR



10.30 **FILM** *Chomps*, IDon Chaffley, 1979. US. Understanding family, comedy about a young inventor who avails himself with a computer-controlled watchdog - the acronym Canine Home Protection System (#72555).

12.30 **5 News at Noon** (S) (#644282), **12.30** *Family Affairs* (S) (#238659), **1.00** *The Bold and the Beautiful* (S) (#) (#243672), **1.30** *The Roseanne Show* (#) (#238532), **2.00** *101 Be Pet Cent* (S) (#226359), **2.30** *Good Afternoon* (S) (#614528).

3.30 **FILM** *Barabbas*, Richard Fleischer, 1962. 11. Over-brown biblical tale about the apocryphous criminal who was released by Pontius Pilate in preference to Jesus prior to the Crucifixion. Storyline here influenced by an opening shot of a genuine eclipse of the sun, after which, metaphorically speaking, the light fails to shine on this overly ambitious epic. Anthony Quinn plays the un-lit-able one to good effect. (T) (#257308).

6.00 **5 News, Including First on Five**, National and international news with Kerey Young. (S) (#) (#240866).

6.30 **Family Affairs**, Benji stands up for Maggie's honour and Roy makes a public apology to Pete - good news all round, then (S) (#) (#223921).

7.00 **FILM** *Spanish, Too* (Greg Aronacki, 1981. US). Criminal 53 looks at the viewer's business happily while with this movie, made-for-TV sequel to the earlier Daryl Hanahan/Don Rickles narrative, he's told that Wilkie and Amy, (Kascher, Schuler) our main returns to New York from his latest escapade - the intended film-out-of-water gag is less than convincing and desperately like, well, a list out of water. (T) (#370108).

8.30 **FILM** *The Tuskegee Airman* (Robert Mellowitz, 1973 US). Superior made-for-TV movie telling Laurence Fishburne and Cuba Gooding Jr. as Starchild World War fighter pilots flying in the face of bigotry and prejudice. (T) (#702327).

10.30 **Dr. Fox's Chart Update** (S) (#338143).

10.35 **FILM** *Dangerous Dangle* (Paul Duncan, 1992 US). Daffy TV movie about a dancer who is rushed to hospital for an emergency life-saving operation in which

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Channel 5

2.1

The Independent 5 April 1999

THE MONDAY REVIEW 

Figure 1

MADE IN SCOTLAND

THIS SIDE

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